



Australian Government  
Repatriation Medical Authority

## Statement of Principles concerning

# WILSON'S DISEASE

## No. 33 of 2015

for the purposes of the

*Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*  
and

*Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*

### Title

1. This Instrument may be cited as Statement of Principles concerning Wilson's disease No. 33 of 2015.

### Determination

2. The Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** and **(8)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA):
  - (a) revokes Instrument No. 7 of 2007 concerning Wilson's disease; and
  - (b) determines in its place this Statement of Principles.

### Kind of injury, disease or death

3.
  - (a) This Statement of Principles is about **Wilson's disease** and **death from Wilson's disease**.
  - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**Wilson's disease**" means a genetic disorder of copper metabolism, heritable as an autosomal recessive trait, which is characterised by impaired biliary copper excretion and toxic accumulation of copper in various organs of the body.

### Basis for determining the factors

4. After examining the available sound medical-scientific evidence the Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-

scientific evidence that indicates that the only factor that may be related to the cause of or material contribution to or aggravation of **Wilson's disease** or **death from Wilson's disease** and which can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans, members of Peacekeeping Forces, or members of the Forces under the VEA, or members under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (the MRCA) is that set out in clause 5.

#### **Factors that must be related to service**

5. The factor that must as a minimum exist in relation to the circumstances of a person's relevant service causing or materially contributing to or aggravating **Wilson's disease** or **death from Wilson's disease** is inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for Wilson's disease.

#### **Other definitions**

6. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:  
**"death from Wilson's disease"** in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's Wilson's disease;

**"ICD-10-AM code"** means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM), Eighth Edition, effective date of 1 July 2013, copyrighted by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, and having ISBN 978-1-74128-213-9;

**"relevant service"** means:

- (a) operational service under the VEA;
- (b) peacekeeping service under the VEA;
- (c) hazardous service under the VEA;
- (d) British nuclear test defence service under the VEA;
- (e) warlike service under the MRCA; or
- (f) non-warlike service under the MRCA;

**"terminal event"** means the proximate or ultimate cause of death and includes:

- (a) pneumonia;
- (b) respiratory failure;
- (c) cardiac arrest;
- (d) circulatory failure; or
- (e) cessation of brain function.

#### **Application**

7. This Instrument applies to all matters to which section 120A of the VEA or section 338 of the MRCA applies.

#### **Date of effect**

8. This Instrument takes effect from 27 January 2015.

Dated this *nineteenth* day of *December* 2014

The Common Seal of the  
Repatriation Medical Authority  
was affixed at the direction of:

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'N. Saunders', written in a cursive style.

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS SAUNDERS AO  
CHAIRPERSON