



Australian Government  
Repatriation Medical Authority

## Statement of Principles concerning

# ESSENTIAL THROMBOCYTHAEMIA

## No. 15 of 2013

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 essential thrombocythaemia No. 15 of 2013.

### Determination

2. This Statement of Principles is determined by the Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA).

### Kind of injury, disease or death

3.
  - (a) This Statement of Principles is about **essential thrombocythaemia** and **death from essential thrombocythaemia**.
  - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**essential thrombocythaemia**" means a myeloproliferative neoplasm characterized by a sharp increase in the number of circulating platelets, with repeated spontaneous haemorrhages either externally or into the tissues. This definition excludes reactive (secondary) thrombocythaemia.
  - (c) Essential thrombocythaemia attracts ICD-10-AM code D47.3.
  - (d) In the application of this Statement of Principles, the definition of "**essential thrombocythaemia**" is that given at paragraph 3(b) above.

## **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 **essential thrombocythaemia** or **death from essential thrombocythaemia** 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 **essential thrombocythaemia** or **death from essential thrombocythaemia** is inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for essential thrombocythaemia.

## **Other definitions**

6. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

**"death from essential thrombocythaemia"** in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's essential thrombocythaemia;

**"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), Seventh Edition, effective date of 1 July 2010, copyrighted by the National Centre for Classification in Health, Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 978 1 74210 154 5;

**"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.

**Date of effect**

- 7.** This Instrument takes effect from 13 March 2013.

Dated this *fourth* day of *March* 2013

The Common Seal of the )  
Repatriation Medical Authority )  
was affixed to this instrument )  
in the presence of: )

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS SAUNDERS AO  
CHAIRPERSON