



**Australian Government**

**Repatriation Medical Authority**

ABN 23 964 290 824  
GPO Box 1014  
Brisbane Qld 4001  
Phone (07) 3815 9404  
Fax (07) 3815 9412  
[www.rma.gov.au](http://www.rma.gov.au)

Contact: Sandra Pollitt  
Telephone: (07) 3815 9418  
Fax No: (07) 3815 9412  
File Ref: RMA099/07;  
RMA 115/07;  
RMA086-13;  
RMA081-12

25 March 2015

Dr John R Carroll  
c/o Hon Secretary, Mr DG Dwyer  
HMAS Sydney & VLSV Assoc (Inc Vic)  
PO Box 645  
HEATHMONT VIC 3135

Dear Dr Carroll

Thank you for your correspondence, received here on 25 March 2015, including *Request for an Investigation/Review* forms concerning review of the current Statements of Principles for the following conditions:

- chronic lymphocytic leukaemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma, Instrument Nos. 84 & 85 of 2014
- Parkinson's disease and parkinsonism, Instrument No. 65 of 2007, as amended by 83 of 2010, and Instrument No. 66 of 2007
- diabetes mellitus, Instrument Nos. 89 & 90 of 20011, as amended by 88 & 89 of 2014
- ischaemic heart disease, Instrument Nos. 89 & 90/2007 as amended by 43 & 44 of 2009 , 96 & 97 of 2010, 125 & 126 of 2011, and 33 & 34 of 2014

The issue you have identified in your requests for review is in relation to the inclusion of a factor concerning *being on land in Vietnam, or at sea in Vietnamese waters, or on board a vessel and consuming potable water supplied on that vessel, when the water supply had been produced by evaporative distillation of estuarine Vietnamese waters*, in the Statements of Principles for these conditions.

Your requests for the review of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma and diabetes mellitus, and supporting information, will be considered at the next meeting of the Authority which will take place on 15 April 2015. You will be notified in writing of the decision of the Authority following this process.

As advised in my letter dated 16 March 2015, the Authority is currently undertaking an investigation in regard to Parkinson's disease and parkinsonism, and the supporting information that you have provided will be considered as part of that review.

The Authority is also currently undertaking an investigation in regard to ischaemic heart disease. A notice of investigation under section 196G of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act) appeared in the Government Notices Gazette of 31 October 2012. This notice relates to the undertaking of an investigation under section 196B(7) of the Act in respect of ischaemic heart disease.

The supporting information you have provided in your correspondence will be considered by the Authority along with other information received in the course of this investigation. You will be advised in writing of the outcome of this investigation upon its finalisation. It is expected that this investigation will involve discussion at a number of Authority meetings. In light of this, the increasing workloads and the complexity of the investigations being undertaken with the assistance of the Authority Secretariat, we anticipate a final outcome will not be notified concerning ischaemic heart disease before early 2016.

Under section 196K of the Act, certain decisions made by the Authority are reviewable by the Specialist Medical Review Council (SMRC). If a valid application for review by the SMRC is made, the Act requires the Authority to disclose to the SMRC all information relevant to its determination or decision. This includes applications for investigation or review, and submissions received relevant to the matter being reviewed by the SMRC.

If you have any further queries, I may be contacted on telephone (07) 3815 9418.

Yours sincerely



Sandra Pollitt  
Acting Registrar  
Repatriation Medical Authority

Encl.