



Australian Government

Repatriation Medical Authority

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File Ref: RMA099/07;
RMA 115/07

16 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 letter requesting the review of the current Statements of Principles concerning chronic lymphocytic leukaemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma, Instrument Nos. 84 & 85 of 2014, dated 8 March 2015, and your letter requesting the review of the current Statements of Principles concerning Parkinson's disease and parkinsonism, Instrument No. 65 of 2007, as amended by Instrument No. 83 of 2010, and Instrument No. 66 of 2007, dated 12 March 2015.

With regard to your request for the review of the current Statements of Principles concerning chronic lymphocytic leukaemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma, could you please forward to the Repatriation Medical Authority (the Authority) a completed *Request for an Investigation/Review* form, as required under section 196E of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act). Section 196E of the Act specifies that such requests must:

- be in a form approved by the Authority;
- be lodged at the office of the Authority;
- state the grounds on which the review is sought; and
- identify any information relied upon.

Please complete all sections of the form, although since you have already provided information relied upon with your letter, it will be sufficient to note on the form that the Authority should refer to the attached submission previously sent with your letter concerning chronic lymphocytic leukaemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma, dated 8 March 2015.

I have enclosed the Authority's *Request for an Investigation/Review* form for your convenience. The form is also available on the RMA website www.rma.gov.au.

On receipt of your completed form, your request for the review of the current Statements of Principles chronic lymphocytic leukaemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma, and supporting information, will be considered at the next meeting of the Authority. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 15 April 2015. You will be notified of the decision of the Authority following this process.

The Authority is currently undertaking an investigation in regard to Parkinson's disease and parkinsonism. A notice of investigation under section 196G of 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 Parkinson's disease and parkinsonism.

Your submission is in relation to the inclusion of a factor in the Statements of Principles concerning Parkinson's disease and parkinsonism as follows:

being:

- (i) on land in Vietnam; or
- (ii) at sea in Vietnamese waters; or
- (iii) 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;

for a cumulative period of at least 30 days, at least five years before the clinical onset of Parkinson's disease and parkinsonism; or

The information you have provided in your correspondence dated 12 March 2015 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 before the end of 2015.

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
Deputy Registrar
Repatriation Medical Authority

Encl.