

Specialist Medical Review Council

Declarations

*Section 196W  
Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986*

**Re: Statements of Principles Nos. 67 & 68 of 2013**

**in respect of motor neuron disease**

Request for Review Declaration No. 31

1. In relation to the Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) Statements of Principles **Nos. 67 and 68 concerning motor neuron disease** made under subsections 196B of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA), the Council under subsection 196W(5) of the VEA:

DECLARES that there is insufficient sound medical-scientific evidence on which the RMA could have relied to include in the Statements of Principles the following factors:

* having a moderate to severe traumatic brain injury more than one year before the clinical onset of motor neurone disease; and
* having received at least 250 blows to the head while participating in a high impact contact activity, where these blows occurred more than one year before the clinical onset of motor neurone disease.

And accordingly:

DECLARES that Statement of Principles No. 68 of 2013 should not be amended to include those factors; AND

DIRECTS the RMA to amend Statement of Principles No. 67 of 2013 by removing factors 6. (b) and (c).

DECLARES that there is no sound medical-scientific evidence on which the RMA could have relied to amend the Statements of Principles to include the following factor(s):

* smoking at least ten pack-years of cigarettes, or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products coupled with having received at least 250 blows to the head while participating in a high contact activity, where the smoking and blows to the head occurred more than one year before the clinical onset of motor neurone disease.

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| Lin Fritschi  Presiding Councillor | Glenn McCulloch  Councillor | John Worthington  Councillor |  |

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| Jan Bowman  Registrar, SMRC |
| Dated this ***twentieth*** day of ***June*** 2018 |