1. The Repatriation Medical Authority ('the Authority'), under subsection 196B(8) of the Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986 ('the VEA') revokes Instrument No. 14 of 1995, as amended by Instrument No. 189 of 1995, determined under subsection 196B(3) of the VEA concerning alkaptonuria and death from alkaptonuria.

2. The Authority is of the view that on the sound medical-scientific evidence available it is more probable than not that alkaptonuria and death from alkaptonuria can be related to particular kinds of service. The Authority has therefore determined pursuant to subsection 196B(3) of the VEA a Statement of Principles, Instrument No. 48 of 2007 concerning alkaptonuria. This Instrument will in effect replace the revoked Statements of Principles.

3. The provisions of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 ('the MRCA') relating to claims for compensation commenced on 1 July 2004. Claims under section 319 of the MRCA for acceptance of liability for a service injury sustained, a service disease contracted or service death on or after 1 July 2004 are determined by the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission by reference to Statements of Principles issued by the Authority pursuant to the VEA.

4. The Statement of Principles sets out the factors that must exist, and which of those factors must be related to the following kinds of service rendered by a person:
   - eligible war service (other than operational service) under the VEA;
   - defence service (other than hazardous service) under the VEA;
   - peacetime service under the MRCA,
before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, alkaptonuria or death from alkaptonuria is connected with the circumstances of that service.

5. This new instrument results from an investigation notified by the Authority in the Government Notices Gazette of 15 June 2005 concerning alkaptonuria in accordance with section 196G of the Act. The investigation involved an examination of the sound medical-scientific evidence now available to the Authority, including the sound medical-scientific evidence it has previously considered.
6. The contents of the new Instrument are in similar terms as the revoked Instruments. Comparing the new and the revoked Instruments, the differences include:

- adopting the latest revised Instrument format, which commenced in 2005;
- deleting the ICD code from the Instrument header;
- revising the definition of 'alkaptonuria' in clause 3;
- new factor 6(a) concerning 'cirrhosis of the liver';
- new factor 6(b) concerning 'moderate to severe renal failure';
- deleting the factor concerning 'physical trauma';
- new definitions of 'death from alkaptonuria'; 'ICD-10-AM code'; 'relevant service'; 'moderate to severe renal failure' and 'terminal event' in clause 9;
- deleting definitions of 'ICD code' and 'physical trauma' in clause 9; and
- specifying a date of effect for the Instrument in clause 11.

7. Further changes to the format of the Instrument reflect the commencement of the MRCA and clarify that pursuant to subsection 196B(3A) of the VEA, the Statement of Principles has been determined for the purposes of both the VEA and the MRCA.

8. Prior to determining this instrument, the Authority advertised its intention to undertake an investigation in relation to **alkaptonuria** in the Government Notices Gazette of 15 June 2005, and circulated a copy of the notice of intention to investigate to a wide range of organisations representing veterans, service personnel and their dependants. The Authority invited submissions from the Repatriation Commission, organisations and persons referred to in section 196E of the VEA, and any person having expertise in the field. No submissions were received for consideration by the Authority during the investigation.

9. On 20 December 2006, the Authority wrote to organisations representing veterans, service personnel and their dependants regarding the proposed Instrument and the medical-scientific material considered by the Authority. This letter emphasised the deletion of factors relating to **physical trauma**. The Authority provided an opportunity to the organisations to make representations in relation to the proposed instrument prior to its determination. No submissions were received for consideration by the Authority.

10. The determining of this new instrument finalises the investigation in relation to **alkaptonuria** as advertised in the Government Notices Gazette of 15 June 2005.

11. A list of references relating to the above condition is available, on written request, from the Repatriation Medical Authority Secretariat.