



**Australian Government**  
**Repatriation Medical Authority**

**Amendment Statement of Principles**  
**concerning**  
**MYELODYSPLASTIC SYNDROME**  
**(Balance of Probabilities)**  
**(No. 36 of 2016)**

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The Repatriation Medical Authority determines the following Amendment Statement of Principles under subsections 196B(3) and (8) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

Dated 4 March 2016

The Common Seal of the  
Repatriation Medical Authority  
was affixed to this instrument  
at the direction of:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Saunders'.

Professor Nicholas Saunders AO  
Chairperson

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## 1 Name

This is the Amendment Statement of Principles concerning *myelodysplastic syndrome (Balance of Probabilities)* (No. 36 of 2016).

## 2 Commencement

This instrument commences on 4 April 2016.

## 3 Authority

This instrument is made under subsections 196B(3) and (8) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

## 4 Application

This instrument applies to a claim to which section 120B of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* or section 339 of the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* applies.

## 5 Amendment

The Statement of Principles concerning myelodysplastic syndrome and death from myelodysplastic syndrome No. 74 of 2015 is amended in the following manner:

Section	Amendment
9(6)	<p>Replace the existing factor in subsection 9(6) with the following:</p> <p>being exposed to benzene as specified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) for a cumulative total of at least 2 500 hours within a continuous period of five years before the clinical onset of myelodysplastic syndrome; and</li><li>(b) where the first exposure in that period occurred at least five years before the clinical onset of myelodysplastic syndrome; and</li><li>(c) where the last exposure in that period occurred within the 30 years before the clinical onset of myelodysplastic syndrome;</li></ul> <p>Note: <i>being exposed to benzene as specified</i> is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.</p>
Schedule 1 – Dictionary	<p>Replace the definition of "being exposed to benzene" with the definition of "being exposed to benzene as specified" as follows:</p> <p><b><i>being exposed to benzene as specified</i></b> means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) having cutaneous contact with liquids containing benzene greater than 1% by volume; or</li><li>(b) ingesting liquids containing benzene greater than 1% by volume; or</li><li>(c) inhaling benzene vapour where such exposure</li></ul>

	<p>occurs at an ambient 8-hour time-weighted average benzene concentration exceeding five parts per million.</p> <p>Note: <i>8-hour time-weighted average</i> is also defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.</p>
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