Statement of Principles concerning optochiasmatic arachnoiditis (Reasonable Hypothesis) (No. 57 of 2016)

made under subsection 196B(2) of the

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

Compilation No. 1

Compilation date: 18 September 2017

Includes amendments up to: Veterans' Entitlements (Statements of Principles—Cumulative Equivalent Dose) Amendment Determination 2017 (No. 58 of 2017) (F2017L01067)

The day of commencement of this Amendment Determination is 18 September 2017.

Prepared by the Repatriation Medical Authority Secretariat, Brisbane
About this compilation

This compilation

This is a compilation of the Statement of Principles concerning optochiasmatic arachnoiditis (Reasonable Hypothesis) (No. 57 of 2016) that shows the text of the law as amended and in force on 18 September 2017.

The notes at the end of this compilation (the endnotes) include information about amending laws and the amendment history of provisions of the compiled law.

Uncommenced amendments

The effect of uncommenced amendments is not shown in the text of the compiled law. Any uncommenced amendments affecting the law are accessible on the Legislation Register (www.legislation.gov.au). The details of amendments made up to, but not commenced at, the compilation date are underlined in the endnotes. For more information on any uncommenced amendments, see the series page on the Legislation Register for the compiled law.

Application, saving and transitional provisions for provisions and amendments

If the operation of a provision or amendment of the compiled law is affected by an application, saving or transitional provision that is not included in this compilation, details are included in the endnotes.

Modifications

If the compiled law is modified by another law, the compiled law operates as modified but the modification does not amend the text of the law. Accordingly, this compilation does not show the text of the compiled law as modified. For more information on any modifications, see the series page on the Legislation Register for the compiled law.

Self-repealing provisions

If a provision of the compiled law has been repealed in accordance with a provision of the law, details are included in the endnotes.
The Repatriation Medical Authority determines the following Statement of Principles under subsection 196B(2) of the Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986.

Dated 22 April 2016
Statement of Principles concerning Optochiasmatic Arachnoiditis (Reasonable Hypothesis) (No. 57 of 2016)
Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

Compilation No. 1
Compilation date: 18/09/2017

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1 Name
This is the Statement of Principles concerning *optochiasmatic arachnoiditis (Reasonable Hypothesis)* (No. 57 of 2016).

2 Commencement
This instrument commences on 23 May 2016.

3 Authority
This instrument is made under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986*.

4 Application
This instrument applies to a claim to which section 120A of the VEA or section 338 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 applies.

5 Definitions
The terms defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary have the meaning given when used in this instrument.

6 Kind of injury, disease or death to which this Statement of Principles relates

(1) This Statement of Principles is about optochiasmatic arachnoiditis and death from optochiasmatic arachnoiditis.

*Meaning of optochiasmatic arachnoiditis*

(2) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, optochiasmatic arachnoiditis means chronic inflammation of the arachnoid membrane surrounding the optic chiasm and intracranial optic nerves, resulting in damage to these structures from fibrosis and the formation of adhesions, and typically presenting with progressive visual loss.

*Death from optochiasmatic arachnoiditis*

(3) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, optochiasmatic arachnoiditis, in relation to a person, includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person’s optochiasmatic arachnoiditis.

Note: *terminal event* is defined in the Schedule 1 – Dictionary.
7 Basis for determining the factors

The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that optochiasmatic arachnoiditis and death from optochiasmatic arachnoiditis can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans, members of Peacekeeping Forces, or members of the Forces under the VEA, or members under the MRCA.

Note: relevant service is defined in the Schedule 1 – Dictionary.

8 Factors that must exist

At least one of the following factors must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting optochiasmatic arachnoiditis or death from optochiasmatic arachnoiditis with the circumstances of a person’s relevant service:

(1) having a bacterial, fungal or parasitic infection involving the leptomeninges surrounding the optic chiasm or intracranial optic nerves before the clinical onset of optochiasmatic arachnoiditis;

Note: leptomeninges is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

(2) having a subarachnoid haemorrhage or bleeding into the subarachnoid space before the clinical onset of optochiasmatic arachnoiditis;

(3) having surgery to an area in close proximity to the optic chiasm before the clinical onset of optochiasmatic arachnoiditis;

(4) having a moderate to severe traumatic brain injury before the clinical onset of optochiasmatic arachnoiditis;

(5) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation for cancer, where the optic chiasm was in the field of radiation, before the clinical onset of optochiasmatic arachnoiditis;

(6) having received a cumulative equivalent dose of at least ten sieverts of ionising radiation to the region of the optic chiasm before the clinical onset of optochiasmatic arachnoiditis;

Note: cumulative equivalent dose is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

(7) having sarcoidosis or multiple sclerosis, involving inflammation of the leptomeninges surrounding the optic chiasm, before the clinical onset of optochiasmatic arachnoiditis;

Note: leptomeninges is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

(8) having an intrathecal myelogram or intrathecal treatment with a substance from the specified list of substances before the clinical onset of optochiasmatic arachnoiditis;
Note: *specified list of substances* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

(9) having a bacterial, fungal or parasitic infection involving the leptomeninges surrounding the optic chiasm or intracranial optic nerves before the clinical worsening of optochiasmatic arachnoiditis;

Note: *leptomeninges* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

(10) having a subarachnoid haemorrhage or bleeding into the subarachnoid space before the clinical worsening of optochiasmatic arachnoiditis;

(11) having surgery to an area in close proximity to the optic chiasm before the clinical worsening of optochiasmatic arachnoiditis;

(12) having a moderate to severe traumatic brain injury before the clinical worsening of optochiasmatic arachnoiditis;

(13) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation for cancer, where the optic chiasm was in the field of radiation, before the clinical worsening of optochiasmatic arachnoiditis;

(14) having received a cumulative equivalent dose of at least ten sieverts of ionising radiation to the region of the optic chiasm before the clinical worsening of optochiasmatic arachnoiditis;

Note: *cumulative equivalent dose* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

(15) having sarcoidosis or multiple sclerosis, involving inflammation of the leptomeninges surrounding the optic chiasm, before the clinical worsening of optochiasmatic arachnoiditis;

Note: *leptomeninges* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

(16) having an intrathecal myelogram or intrathecal treatment with a substance from the specified list of substances before the clinical worsening of optochiasmatic arachnoiditis;

Note: *specified list of substances* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

(17) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for optochiasmatic arachnoiditis.

9 **Relationship to service**

(1) The existence in a person of any factor referred to in section 8, must be related to the relevant service rendered by the person.

(2) The factors set out in subsections 8(9) to 8(17) apply only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, optochiasmatic arachnoiditis where the person’s optochiasmatic arachnoiditis was suffered or contracted before or during (but did not arise out of) the person’s relevant service.
10 Factors referring to an injury or disease covered by another Statement of Principles

In this Statement of Principles:

(1) if a factor referred to in section 8 applies in relation to a person; and

(2) that factor refers to an injury or disease in respect of which a Statement of Principles has been determined under subsection 196B(2) of the VEA;

then the factors in that Statement of Principles apply in accordance with the terms of that Statement of Principles as in force from time to time.
Schedule 1 - Dictionary

Note: See Section 5

1 Definitions

In this instrument:

cumulative equivalent dose means the total dose of ionising radiation received by the particular organ or tissue from external exposure, internal exposure or both, apart from normal background radiation exposure in Australia, calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in Guide to calculation of 'cumulative equivalent dose' for the purpose of applying ionising radiation factors contained in Statements of Principles determined under Part XIA of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (Cth), Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency, as in force on 2 August 2017.

Note 1: Examples of circumstances that might lead to exposure to ionising radiation include being present during or subsequent to the testing or use of nuclear weapons, undergoing diagnostic or therapeutic medical procedures involving ionising radiation, and being a member of an aircrew, leading to increased levels of exposure to cosmic radiation.

Note 2: For the purpose of dose reconstruction, dose is calculated as an average over the mass of a specific tissue or organ. If a tissue is exposed to multiple sources of ionising radiation, the various dose estimates for each type of radiation must be combined.

leptomeninges means the arachnoid mater and the pia mater, the two innermost layers of the cerebral meninges between which there is circulation of cerebrospinal fluid.


optochiasmatic arachnoiditis—see subsection 6(2).

relevant service means:
(a) operational service under the VEA;
(b) peacekeeping service under the VEA;
(c) hazardous service under the VEA;
(d) British nuclear test defence service under the VEA;
(e) warlike service under the MRCA; or
(f) non-warlike service under the MRCA.

specified list of substances means:
(a) iophendylate (Pantopaque or Myodil);
(b) radioactive gold; or
(c) thorium dioxide (Thorotrast).
**terminal event** means the proximate or ultimate cause of death and includes the following:

(a) pneumonia;
(b) respiratory failure;
(c) cardiac arrest;
(d) circulatory failure; or
(e) cessation of brain function.

**VEA** means the *Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986*. 

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**Statement of Principles concerning**

*Optochiasmatic Arachnoiditis (Reasonable Hypothesis) (No. 57 of 2016)*

*Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986*
Endnotes

Endnote 1—About the endnotes

The endnotes provide information about this compilation and the compiled law.

The following endnotes are included in every compilation:

Endnote 1—About the endnotes
Endnote 2—Abbreviation key
Endnote 3—Legislation history
Endnote 4—Amendment history

Abbreviation key—Endnote 2

The abbreviation key sets out abbreviations that may be used in the endnotes.

Legislation history and amendment history—Endnotes 3 and 4

Amending laws are annotated in the legislation history and amendment history.

The legislation history in endnote 3 provides information about each law that has amended (or will amend) the compiled law. The information includes commencement details for amending laws and details of any application, saving or transitional provisions that are not included in this compilation.

The amendment history in endnote 4 provides information about amendments at the provision (generally section or equivalent) level. It also includes information about any provision of the compiled law that has been repealed in accordance with a provision of the law.

Misdescribed amendments

A misdescribed amendment is an amendment that does not accurately describe the amendment to be made. If, despite the misdescription, the amendment can be given effect as intended, the amendment is incorporated into the compiled law and the abbreviation “(md)” added to the details of the amendment included in the amendment history.

If a misdescribed amendment cannot be given effect as intended, the abbreviation “(md not incorp)” is added to the details of the amendment included in the amendment history.
Endnote 2—Abbreviation key

- ad = added or inserted
- am = amended
- amdt = amendment
- c = clause(s)
- C[x] = Compilation No. x
- Ch = Chapter(s)
- def = definition(s)
- Dict = Dictionary
- disallowed = disallowed by Parliament
- Div = Division(s)
- exp = expires/expired or ceases/ceased to have effect
- F = Federal Register of Legislation
- gaz = gazette
- LA = Legislation Act 2003
- LIA = Legislative Instruments Act 2003
- (md) = misdescribed amendment can be given effect
- (md not incorp) = misdescribed amendment cannot be given effect
- mod = modified/modification
- No. = Number(s)
- ord = order(s)
- Ord = Ordinance
- orig = original
- par = paragraph(s)/subparagraph(s)
- /sub-subparagraph(s)
- pres = present
- prev = previous
- (prev…) = previously
- Pt = Part(s)
- r = regulation(s)/rule(s)
- reloc = relocated
- renum = renumbered
- rep = repealed
- rs = repealed and substituted
- s = section(s)/subsection(s)
- Sch = Schedule(s)
- Sdiv = Subdivision(s)
- SLI = Select Legislative Instrument
- SR = Statutory Rules
- Sub-Ch = Sub-Chapter(s)
- SubPt = Subpart(s)
- underlining = whole or part not commenced or to be commenced

Statement of Principles concerning
Optochiasmatic Arachnoiditis (Reasonable Hypothesis) (No. 57 of 2016)
Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986

Compilation No. 1

Compilation date: 18/09/2017

Authorised Version F2017C00864 registered 18/09/2017
### Endnote 3—Legislation history

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## Endnote 4—Amendment history

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