



Specialist Medical Review Council

Declaration

*Section 196W
Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*

**Re: Statements of Principles Nos. 68 & 69 of 2008
In Respect of Rheumatoid Arthritis**

Request for Review Declaration No. 18

1. In relation to the Repatriation Medical Authority (the RMA) Statement of Principles No. 68 of 2008 in respect of rheumatoid arthritis and death from rheumatoid arthritis, made under subsection 196B (2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA), the Specialist Medical Review Council (the Council) under subsection 196W of the VEA:

DECLARES THAT:

the sound medical-scientific evidence available to the RMA is insufficient to justify an amendment to Statement of Principles No. 68 of 2008 to include factors for exposure to mineral oils containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) or acute PCB exposure or to amend the definition of 'mineral oil' as contended.

2. In relation to the RMA Statement of Principles No. 69 of 2008 in respect of rheumatoid arthritis and death from rheumatoid arthritis, made under subsection 196B (3) of the VEA, the Council under subsection 196W of the VEA:

DECLARES THAT:

the sound medical-scientific evidence available to the RMA is insufficient to justify an amendment to Statement of Principles No. 69 of 2008 to include factors for exposure to mineral oils containing PCBs or acute PCB exposure.

John Watson
FUNDER

Presiding
Councillor

Rachelle
BUCHBINDER

Councillor

Geoffrey Owen
LITTLEJOHN

Councillor

Peter
NASH

Councillor

The Common Seal of the)
Specialist Medical Review)
Council was affixed to this)
document by authority of the)
Council in the presence of:)

Jan Bowman
Registrar

Dated this **fourteenth** day of **December** 2012

The Council's Reasons for Decision in relation to this Declaration can be obtained from its website at www.smrc.gov.au, or on request by writing to the Specialist Medical Review Council Secretariat, PO Box 895, Woden ACT 2606 or by telephoning (07) 3223 8420.