



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

**Amendment Statement of Principles**  
**concerning**  
**SUICIDE AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE**  
**(Balance of Probabilities)**  
**(No. 27 of 2017)**

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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 24 February 2017

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 'Nicholas Saunders'.

Professor Nicholas Saunders AO  
Chairperson

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## 1 Name

This is the Amendment Statement of Principles concerning *suicide and attempted suicide (Balance of Probabilities)* (No. 27 of 2017).

## 2 Commencement

This instrument commences on 27 March 2017.

## 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 suicide and attempted suicide and death from attempted suicide No. 66 of 2016 is amended in the following manner:

Section	Amendment
9(2)	<p><i>Replace the existing factor in subsection 9(2) with the following:</i></p> <p>experiencing a category 1A stressor before the suicide or the attempted suicide;</p> <p>Note: <i>category 1A stressor</i> is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.</p>
9(3)	<p><i>Replace the existing factor in subsection 9(3) with the following:</i></p> <p>experiencing a category 1B stressor before the suicide or the attempted suicide;</p> <p>Note: <i>category 1B stressor</i> is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.</p>
9(8)	<p><i>Replace the existing factor in subsection 9(8) with the following:</i></p> <p>experiencing a category 2 stressor within the five years before the suicide or the attempted suicide;</p> <p>Note: <i>category 2 stressor</i> is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.</p>
9(8a)	<p><i>Insert the following factor in subsection 9(8a):</i></p> <p>experiencing a problem with a long-term relationship, including the break-up of a close personal relationship, the need for marital or relationship counselling, marital</p>

	<p>separation or divorce, the effects of which are chronic in nature and cause the person to feel ongoing distress, concern or worry, within the ten years before the suicide or the attempted suicide;</p>
<p><i>Schedule 1 – Dictionary</i></p>	<p><i>Replace the existing definition of "category 2 stressor" with the following:</i></p> <p><b>category 2 stressor</b> means one of the following negative life events, the effects of which are chronic in nature and cause the person to feel ongoing distress, concern or worry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) being socially isolated and unable to maintain friendships or family relationships, due to physical location, language barriers, disability, or medical or psychiatric illness;</li> <li>(b) having concerns in the work or school environment including ongoing disharmony with fellow work or school colleagues, perceived lack of social support within the work or school environment, perceived lack of control over tasks performed and stressful workloads, or experiencing bullying in the workplace or school environment;</li> <li>(c) experiencing serious legal issues including being detained or held in custody, ongoing involvement with the police concerning violations of the law, or court appearances associated with personal legal problems;</li> <li>(d) having severe financial hardship including loss of employment, long periods of unemployment, foreclosure on a property, or bankruptcy;</li> <li>(e) having a family member or significant other experience a major deterioration in their health; or</li> <li>(f) being a full-time caregiver to a family member or significant other with a severe physical, mental or developmental disability.</li> </ul>