



Specialist Medical Review Council

Declarations

Section 196W
Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

**Re: Statements of Principles Nos. 31 and 32 of 2001
Concerning Hypertension
Matter No.2001/2
Requests for review declaration No 6**

1. In relation to the Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) Statement of Principles, Instrument No. 31 of 2001 concerning hypertension and death from hypertension (SoP 31 of 2001), made under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act), the Specialist Medical Review Council (the Council) declares, under subsection 196W(4) of the Act, that:

- (a) the Council is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence to justify the amendment of SoP 31 of 2000 to include, as a factor, 'occupational or work related stress consequent upon working in a high demand, low decision latitude or control job'; and
- (b) the Council remits the matter to the RMA for reconsideration and:
 - (i) directs that the RMA reconsider the three biological markers of stress in hypertension, being the interrelationship with the sympathetic nervous system, the brain transmitter studies, and the adrenaline hypothesis, all of which are more particularly described in paragraph 49 of the Council's Reasons for Decision (the Council's Reasons); and

(ii) recommends that the RMA have regard to:

- the list of key references referred to by Professor Esler, set out in paragraphs 54 and 55 of the Council's Reasons;
- the article by Drs Schnall, Pickering and Schwartz referred to by the applicant, set out in paragraph 56 of the Council's Reasons;
- any further information which has become available to the RMA since the determination of SoP 31 of 2001; and
- any further information which may become available to the RMA between the date of this Declaration and the completion by the RMA of its reconsideration.

(c) the Council is of the view that there is insufficient sound medical-scientific evidence to justify any other amendment of SoP 31 of 2001.

2. In relation to the RMA Statement of Principles, Instrument No. 32 of 2001 concerning hypertension and death from hypertension (SoP 32 of 2001), made under subsection 196B(3) of the Act, the Council declares, under subsection 196W(4) of the Act, that

(a) the Council is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence to justify the amendment of SoP 32 of 2001 to include, as a factor, 'occupational or work related stress consequent upon working in a high demand, low decision latitude or control job'; and

(b) the Council remits the matter to the RMA for reconsideration and:

(i) directs that the RMA reconsider the three biological markers of stress in hypertension, being the interrelationship with the sympathetic nervous system, the brain transmitter studies, and the adrenaline hypothesis, all of which are more particularly described in paragraph 49 of the Council's Reasons; and


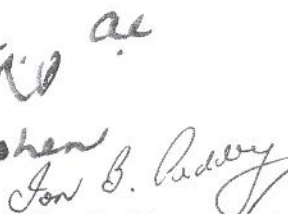
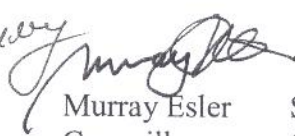

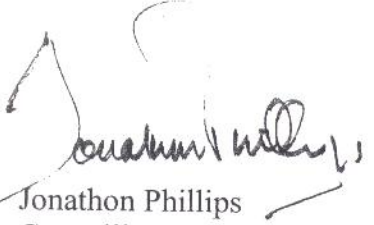
(ii) recommends that the RMA have regard to:

- the list of key references referred to by Professor Esler, set out in paragraphs 54 and 55 of the Council's Reasons;

- the article by Drs Schnall, Pickering and Schwartz referred to by the applicant, set out in paragraph 56 of the Council's Reasons;
- any further information which has become available to the RMA since the determination of SoP 32 of 2001; and
- any further information which may become available to the RMA between the date of this Declaration and the completion by the RMA of its reconsideration.


(c) the Council is of the view that there is insufficient sound medical-scientific evidence to justify any other amendment of SoP 32 of 2001.

Dated this 19th day of March 2002

				
Alex Cohen Convener	Ian Puddey Councillor	Murray Esler Councillor	Scott Henderson Councillor	Jonathon Phillips Councillor

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




Kevin O'Sullivan
Registrar

Affixed this 12th day of March 2002

The Council's Reasons for Decisions in relation to these Declarations can be obtained on request by writing to the Specialist Medical Review Council Secretariat, PO Box 895, Woden ACT 2606 or by telephoning (03) 9284 6784.