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Gulf War Illness Review Welcomed

The Defence Force Welfare Association's National President, David Jamison, welcomed the news that the Repatriation Medical Authority is reviewing its 2003 decision that "Gulf War Illness is not a disease within the meaning of the Veterans Entitlement Act". That decision was made after an earlier Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs study had reached a similar conclusion.

This new Australian review follows the release in November of a US Department of Veterans' Affairs study which confirmed that the disease is real, and may be associated with the use of pyridostigmine bromide pills. That drug was given to Australian personnel, most of them Navy, as an antidote to possible nerve gas attacks during Gulf War I.

Australian veterans of Gulf War I will be delighted with this latest development.

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