

REPATRIATION MEDICAL AUTHORITY DECLARATION

RE: INVESTIGATION INTO POSTCONCUSSION SYNDROME

In relation to the Notice of Investigation in respect of postconcussion syndrome gazetted on 9 May 2012 in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, the Repatriation Medical Authority (the Authority) declares that it does not propose to determine a Statement of Principles concerning postconcussion syndrome under subsection 196B(2) or (3) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act).

On 14 December 2011, the Authority advertised its intention to carry out an investigation pursuant to subsection 196B(4) in respect of traumatic brain injury. This investigation, together with the investigation in regard to postconcussion syndrome and the investigation into physical injury due to munitions discharge were undertaken as part of a comprehensive review of matters relating to traumatic brain injury.

On completion of these investigations the Authority has decided:

- to revoke and reissue Statements of Principles in respect of "physical injury due to munitions discharge" under subsections 196B(2) and (8) or 196B(3) and (8) of the Act;
- to make Statements of Principles under subsections 196B(2) or 196B(3) of the Act in respect of "concussion" and "moderate to severe traumatic brain injury"; and
- not to make Statements of Principles under subsections 196B(2) or 196B(3) of the Act in respect of "postconcussion syndrome".

It is the Authority's view that while symptoms may be associated with mild traumatic brain injury in a proportion of cases, the sound medical-scientific evidence does not clearly establish a "postconcussion syndrome" as a distinct disease entity. The Authority declares that postconcussion syndrome is not a disease or injury for the purposes of the Act and hence is not a condition for which a Statement of Principles could be determined.

The Common Seal of the)
Repatriation Medical Authority)
was affixed at the direction of:)

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS SAUNDERS AO
CHAIRPERSON 27/08/2012