Statement of Principles

concerning

ACUTE SPRAINS AND ACUTE STRAINS

ICD CODES: 840-848

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 subsection 196B(2)

- 1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that acute sprain or acute strain and death from acute sprain or acute strain can be related to operational service rendered by veterans, peacekeeping service rendered by members of Peacekeeping forces and hazardous service rendered by members of the Forces, the Repatriation Medical Authority determines, under subsection 196B(2) of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986, that the factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting acute sprain or acute strain or death from acute sprain or acute strain with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) twisting, wrenching, stretching, overusing or misusing a joint immediately before the clinical onset of sprain to that joint; or
 - (b) stretching, overusing or misusing a muscle immediately before the clinical onset of strain to that muscle; or
 - (c) twisting, wrenching, stretching, overusing or misusing a joint immediately before the clinical worsening of sprain to that joint; or
 - (d) stretching, overusing or misusing a muscle immediately before the clinical worsening of strain to that muscle; or
 - (e) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the acute sprain or strain.

- 2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(e)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
- 3. The factors set out in paragraphs $\mathbf{1}(\mathbf{c})$ to $\mathbf{1}(\mathbf{e})$ apply only where:
 - (a) the person's **acute sprain or acute strain** was suffered prior to a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
 - (b) the relationship suggested between the **acute sprain or acute strain** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d), or 70(5A)(d) of the Act.
- 4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

"acute sprain" means tearing or stretching ligaments with symptoms of sudden onset and short duration attracting ICD code 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847 or 848, but does not include conditions of degenerative joint, ligament or muscular disease;

"acute strain" means an injury to a muscle or joint attracting ICD code 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847 or 848 with symptoms of sudden onset and short duration, but does not include conditions of degenerative joint, ligament or muscular disease;

"ICD code" means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the tenth edition of the *International Classification of Diseases* 9th Revision, effective date of 1 October 1993, copyrighted by the US Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities, and having the Library of Congress number 77-94472.

Dated this	day of	1994
The Common Seal of the)	
Repatriation Medical Authority)	
was affixed to this instrument)	
in the presence of:)	

KEN DONALD CHAIRMAN