

REVOKED

Statement of Principles

concerning

SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS

ICD CODE: 389.10

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **sensorineural hearing loss and death from sensorineural hearing loss** 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 **sensorineural hearing loss or death from sensorineural hearing loss** with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) exposure to one bout of acoustic trauma without adequate ear protection before the clinical onset of sensorineural hearing loss; or
 - (b) exposure to one bout of acoustic trauma without adequate ear protection before the clinical worsening of sensorineural hearing loss; or
 - (c) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for sensorineural hearing loss.

2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(c)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factors set out in paragraph **1(b) or (c)** apply only where:
 - (a) the person's **sensorineural hearing loss** was contracted prior to a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
 - (b) the relationship suggested between the **sensorineural hearing loss** 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:

“acoustic trauma” means a condition of sudden aural damage resulting from short term intense exposure, or a single exposure, to loud noise such as that made, at close quarters, by:

- (a) fireworks; or
- (b) small arms fire; or
- (c) gunfire; or
- (d) grenade fire; or
- (e) exploding mines; or
- (f) major explosions;

“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;

“sensorineural hearing loss” means a permanent hearing threshold shift of 20 decibels at 500, 1 000, 2 000 and 3 000 Hertz due to a defect in the cochlea or the auditory nerve whereby nervous impulses from the cochlea to the brain are attenuated, attracting ICD Code 389.10.

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