

Statement of Principles
concerning
ACUTE SPRAINS AND ACUTE STRAINS

ICD CODES: 840-848

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(3)

1. Being of the view that, on the sound medical-scientific evidence available to the Repatriation Medical Authority, it is more probable than not that **acute sprain or acute strain and death from acute sprain or acute strain** can be related to eligible war service (other than operational service) rendered by veterans and defence service (other than hazardous service) rendered by members of the Forces, the Repatriation Medical Authority determines, under subsection 196B(3) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, that the factors that must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, **acute sprain or acute strain or death from acute sprain or acute strain** is connected 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 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 **1(c) to 1(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) or 70(5)(d), of the Act.
- 4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“acute sprain” means tearing or stretching of 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