

# REVOKED

## Statement of Principles

concerning

### **SPINA BIFIDA**

**ICD CODE: 741, 756.17**

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 **spina bifida and death from spina bifida** 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, **spina bifida or death from spina bifida** is connected with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a) suffering physical trauma affecting the spine before the clinical worsening of spina bifida; or
  - (b) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for spina bifida.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(b)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(b)** apply only where:
  - (a) the person's **spina bifida** 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 **spina bifida** 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:

**“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;

**“physical trauma”** means an injury to the body caused by the force of an extraneous physical or mechanical agent.

**“spina bifida”** means a developmental anomaly characterised by defective closure of the bony encasement of the spinal cord, through which the cord and meninges may or may not protrude and attracting ICD code 741 or 756.17.

Dated this    day of    1995

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN