

# REVOKED

## Statement of Principles

concerning

# CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME

ICD CODE: 780.7

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986  
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **chronic fatigue syndrome** and **death from chronic fatigue syndrome** 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* (the Act), that the factor that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **chronic fatigue syndrome** or **death from chronic fatigue syndrome** with the circumstances of that service, is:
  - (a) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the chronic fatigue syndrome.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) the factor set out in paragraph 1(a) must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factor set out in paragraph 1(a) applies only where:
  - (a) the person's **chronic fatigue syndrome** was contracted before a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
  - (b) the relationship suggested between the **chronic fatigue syndrome** 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:

**“chronic fatigue syndrome”** means a syndrome of unknown cause and new or definitive onset, characterised by the presence of:

- (a) persistent or relapsing fatigue over a period of at least six months that causes significant disruption of usual daily activities; and
- (b) post-exertional fatigue; and
- (c) neuropsychiatric (cognitive) dysfunction, including new-onset impairment of short-term memory and concentration (demonstrated by difficulty in completing mental tasks which were previously easily performed);

in circumstances in which no alternative diagnosis of a person’s fatigue can be achieved by history, physical examination, or laboratory investigations;

**“ICD code”** means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the Australian Version of The International Classification of Diseases, 9th revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM), effective date of 1 July 1995, copyrighted by the National Coding Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 0 642 22235 5.

Dated this **Eighteenth** day of **July**  
1995

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN