

**REVOKED**

Statement of Principles  
concerning  
**ACQUIRED CATARACT**

**ICD CODE: 366**

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986  
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **acquired cataract** and **death from acquired cataract** 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 factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **acquired cataract** or **death from acquired cataract** with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a) smoking at least 20 cigarettes per day for at least 20 years before the clinical onset of acquired cataract; or

- (b) suffering from diabetes mellitus before the clinical onset of acquired cataract; or
  - (c) suffering from glaucoma of the affected eye before the clinical onset of acquired cataract; or
  - (d) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation to the region of the affected eye before the clinical onset of acquired cataract; or
  - (e) having been within four kilometres of the epicentre of the atomic bomb explosions on Hiroshima or Nagasaki within seven days of the explosion on that city before the clinical onset of acquired cataract; or
  - (f) suffering penetrating trauma to the lens of the affected eye before the clinical onset of acquired cataract; or
  - (g) receiving a therapeutic course of corticosteroids for at least twelve months immediately before the clinical onset of acquired cataract; or
  - (h) suffering from diabetes mellitus before the clinical worsening of acquired cataract; or
  - (j) suffering from glaucoma of the affected eye before the clinical worsening of acquired cataract; or
  - (k) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation to the region of the affected eye before the clinical worsening of acquired cataract; or
  - (m) suffering penetrating trauma to the lens of the affected eye before the clinical worsening of acquired cataract; or
  - (n) receiving a therapeutic course of corticosteroids for at least twelve months immediately before the clinical worsening of acquired cataract; or
  - (o) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the acquired cataract.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraph **1(a) to 1(o)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factors set out in paragraphs **1(h) to 1(o)** apply only where:

- (a) the person's **acquired cataract** developed before a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
- (b) the relationship suggested between the **acquired cataract** 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:

**“acquired cataract”** means an opacity, partial or complete, of one or both eyes, on or in the lens or capsule causing impaired vision or blindness excluding congenital cataract, attracting ICD code 366;

**“course”** means five or more episodes of treatment within a 125 day period;

**“diabetes mellitus”** means an endocrine disease characterised by:

- (a) a fasting venous plasma glucose concentration equal to or greater than 7.8 millimoles per litre on at least two separate occasions; or
- (b) a venous plasma glucose concentration equal to or greater than 11.1 millimoles per litre both within two hours and at two hours after ingestion of 75 grams of glucose,

attracting ICD code 250;

**“glaucoma”** means one of a group of eye diseases characterised by an increase in intraocular pressure which causes pathological changes in the optic disc and typical defects in the vision, attracting ICD code 365;

**“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;

**“penetrating trauma to the lens”** means penetrating injury to the lens of the affected eye and can include surgical procedures to the lens of the affected eye, attracting ICD code 871 or 998.89;

**“therapeutic radiation”** means medical treatment by irradiation to the person with gamma rays, x-rays, alpha particles or beta particles.

Dated this *Twenty-first* day of *June*  
1995

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN