

Statement of Principles

concerning

PRESBYOPIA

ICD CODE: 367.4

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **presbyopia** and **death from presbyopia** 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 **presbyopia** or **death from presbyopia** with the circumstances of that service, is:
 - (a) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for presbyopia.
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 **presbyopia** was suffered before a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
 - (b) the relationship suggested between the **presbyopia** 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:

“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;

“presbyopia” means physiologically blurred near vision, attracting ICD code 367.4, and is due to the reduction in the power of accommodation, that is, the adjustment of the eye for seeing at different distances, accomplished by changing the shape of the lens through action of the ciliary muscle, thus focusing a clear image on the retina.

Dated this *Twenty-ninth* day of *August* 1995

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN