

Amendment of Statement of Principles

concerning

ACUTE STRESS DISORDER

ICD-9-CM CODE: 308

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

1. The Repatriation Medical Authority amends, under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act), Instrument No.5 of 1999, (Statement of Principles concerning acute stress disorder), by:

- A. deleting the definition of "experiencing a severe stressor" in clause 8 and inserting in its place the following definition of "experiencing a severe stressor" in clause 8:

"experiencing a severe stressor" means the person experienced, witnessed, or was confronted with an event or events that involved actual or threat of death or serious injury, or a threat to the person's, or another person's, physical integrity.

In the setting of service in the Defence Forces, or other service where the Veterans' Entitlements Act applies, events that qualify as severe stressors include:

- (i) threat of serious injury or death; or
 - (ii) engagement with the enemy; or
 - (iii) witnessing casualties or participation in or observation of casualty clearance, atrocities or abusive violence;".
2. The amendments made by this instrument apply to all matters to which Instrument No.5 of 1999 and section 120A of the Act apply.

Dated this *Twenty-Fourth* day of *June* 1999

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN