



**Australian Government**  
**Repatriation Medical Authority**

**Amendment Statement of Principles**  
**concerning**  
**OSTEOARTHRITIS**  
**(Reasonable Hypothesis)**  
**(No. 76 of 2022)**

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The Repatriation Medical Authority determines the following Amendment Statement of Principles under subsections 196B(2) and (8) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

Dated 24 June 2022

The Common Seal of the  
Repatriation Medical Authority  
was affixed to this instrument  
at the direction of:

Professor Terence Campbell AM  
Chairperson

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**1 Name**

This is the Amendment Statement of Principles concerning *osteoarthritis (Reasonable Hypothesis)* (No. 76 of 2022).

**2 Commencement**

This instrument commences on 25 July 2022.

**3 Authority**

This instrument is made under subsections 196B(2) and (8) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

**4 Amendment**

The Statement of Principles concerning *osteoarthritis (Reasonable Hypothesis)* (No. 61 of 2017) (Federal Register of Legislation No. F2017L01443) is amended in the following manner:

Section	Amendment
9(13)	<p><i>Replace the existing factor in subsection 9(13) with the following:</i></p> <p>for osteoarthritis of a joint of the upper limb only:</p> <p>Note: <i>joint of the upper limb</i> is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.</p> <p>(a) performing:</p> <p>(i) forceful or repetitive activities involving the affected joint; or</p> <p>(ii) tasks involving repeated or sustained pinch grip or hand/power grip;</p> <p>for an average of at least 100 hours per month, for a cumulative period of at least ten years within a continuous period of 15 years, before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint; or</p> <p>Note: <i>hand/power grip, pinch grip</i> and <i>repetitive activities</i> are defined in the Schedule 1 – Dictionary.</p> <p>(b) using a hand-held, vibrating percussive tool or object on more days than not, for a cumulative period of at least ten years, before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint;</p>
9(35)	<p><i>Replace the existing factor in subsection 9(35) with the following:</i></p> <p>for osteoarthritis of a joint of the upper limb only:</p>

	<p>Note: <b>joint of the upper limb</b> is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.</p> <p>(a) performing:</p> <p>(i) forceful or repetitive activities involving the affected joint; or</p> <p>(ii) tasks involving repeated or sustained pinch grip or hand/power grip;</p> <p>for an average of at least 100 hours per month, for a cumulative period of at least ten years within a continuous period of 15 years, before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint; or</p> <p>Note: <b>hand/power grip</b>, <b>pinch grip</b> and <b>repetitive activities</b> are defined in the Schedule 1 – Dictionary.</p> <p>(b) using a hand-held, vibrating percussive tool or object on more days than not, for a cumulative period of at least ten years, before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint;</p>
<p><i>Schedule 1 – Dictionary</i></p>	<p><i>Insert the following definition of "joint of the upper limb" in alphabetical order:</i></p> <p><b>joint of the upper limb</b> means the glenohumeral joint, the acromioclavicular joint, the elbow joint or any joint of the wrist or hand.</p>