

Statement of Principles

concerning

SPINA BIFIDA

ICD CODE: 741, 756.17

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **spina bifida and death from spina bifida** 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*, that the factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **spina bifida or death from spina bifida** with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) suffering physical trauma affecting the spine before the clinical worsening of spina bifida ; or
 - (b) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for spina bifida
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(b)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(b)** apply only where:
 - (a) the person's **spina bifida** was contracted prior to a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and

