

## Statement of Principles

concerning

# CONGENITAL HALLUX VALGUS

ICD CODE: 755.66

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986  
subsection 196B(3)

1. Being of the view that on the sound medical-scientific evidence available to the Repatriation Medical Authority, it is more probable than not that **congenital hallux valgus** and **death from congenital hallux valgus** can be related to eligible war service (other than operational service) rendered by veterans and defence service (other than hazardous service) rendered by members of the Forces, the Repatriation Medical Authority determines, under subsection 196B(3) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act), that the factors that must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, **congenital hallux valgus** or **death from congenital hallux valgus** is connected with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a) wearing ill fitting footwear that causes lateral pressure on the great toe of the affected foot on a daily basis for a period of at least 3 years before the clinical worsening of congenital hallux valgus; or
  - (b) suffering from osteoarthritis of the first metatarsophalangeal joint of the affected foot before the clinical worsening of congenital hallux valgus; or
  - (c) suffering from pes planus of the affected foot before the clinical worsening of congenital hallux valgus; or

- (d) suffering from amputation of the second toe of the affected foot before the clinical worsening of congenital hallux valgus; or
  - (e) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for congenital hallux valgus.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(e)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
  3. The factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(e)** apply only where:
    - (a) the person's **congenital hallux valgus** was suffered before a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factors is related; and
    - (b) the relationship suggested between the **congenital hallux valgus** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e) or 70(5)(d) of the Act.
  4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

**“amputation”** means loss of one or more of the phalanges of the second digit of the foot or the head of the second metatarsal due to surgery or trauma or as a result of a disease process affecting that toe;

**“congenital hallux valgus”** means a deformity of the foot present at or soon after birth, attracting ICD code 755.66, whereby the great toe is deflected laterally towards the other toes causing a bony prominence to develop over the medial aspect of the metatarsal head and neck, but does not include hallux varus and hammer toe;

**“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;

**“osteoarthritis”** means a non inflammatory degenerative joint disease, attracting ICD code 715, characterised by degeneration of the articular cartilage, hypertrophy of bone at the margin and changes in the synovial membrane;

**“pes planus”** means a structural deformity of the foot, attracting ICD code 734 or 754.61, characterised by the outward rotation of the heel, depression or complete loss of the medial longitudinal arch, dorsal

displacement of the head of the first metatarsal and pronation and abduction of the anterior part of the foot resulting in an everted position but does not include congenital pes planus.

Dated this *Eighteenth* day of *July* 1995

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN