



Australian Government
Repatriation Medical Authority

DECLARATION UNDER SUBSECTION 196B(9)
OF THE VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS ACT 1986

The Repatriation Medical Authority (the Authority), under subsection 196B(9) of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (the Act), makes the following declaration in respect of the review of the contents of the Statements of Principles in force under the Act concerning cervical spondylosis, Instrument Nos. 66 and 67 of 2014.

The investigation related to "exposure to carrying loads positioned between the neck and shoulder". The Notice of Investigation was published in the Government Notices Gazette of 7 May 2019.

Following the investigation, the Authority declares that it does not propose to amend Statement of Principles, Instrument No. 67 of 2014, to include factors relating to carrying loads positioned between the neck and shoulder. The reason is that the sound medical-scientific evidence available to the Authority, including the new sound medical-scientific evidence, cannot, on the balance of probabilities, connect cervical spondylosis with carrying loads positioned between the neck and shoulder related to the circumstances of the relevant service referred to in subsection 196B(3) of the Act.

The Authority proposes to determine an amendment to Statement of Principles, Instrument No. 66 of 2014, concerning cervical spondylosis, to include factors relating to carrying loads positioned between the neck and shoulder. The Authority is of the view that the sound medical-scientific evidence available to it, including the new sound medical-scientific evidence, raises a reasonable hypothesis connecting cervical spondylosis with carrying loads positioned between the neck and shoulder related to the circumstances of relevant service referred to in subsection 196B(2) of the Act.

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

[Handwritten signature]

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS SAUNDERS AO
CHAIRPERSON 18 / 10 / 2019