## Statement of Principles

concerning

## **EXTERNAL BURNS**

ICD CODES: 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946 & 949

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 subsection 196B(2)

- 1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **external burn and death from external burn** 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 **external burn or death from external burn** with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a) application of heat to the external body;
  - (b) application of extreme cold to the external body;
  - (c) application of chemicals, caustics, acid or ionising radiation to the external body;
  - (d) application of friction to the external body;
  - (e) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for an external burn.
- 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 factor set out in paragraph 1(e) applies only where:
  - (a) the person's burn was suffered prior to a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
  - (b) the relationship suggested between the burn and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d), or 70(5A)(d) of the Act.
- 4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

**"external burn"** means an injury to external body tissue attracting ICD code 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, or 949, but does not include an injury or disease caused by the effects of solar radiation, the condition commonly known as "wind burn", or injuries caused by microwave, infrared, ultra-violet or laser energy radiation or injuries to the alimentary tract;

"ICD code" means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the tenth edition of the *International Classification of Diseases* 9th Revision, effective date of 1 October 1993, copyrighted by the US Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities, and having the Library of Congress number 77-94472.

Dated this	day of	1994
The Common Seal of the	)	
Repatriation Medical Authority	)	
was affixed to this instrument	)	
in the presence of:	)	

KEN DONALD CHAIRMAN