Statement of Principles

concerning

MALIGNANT MELANOMA OF THE SKIN

ICD CODE: 172

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 subsection 196B(2)

- 1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that malignant melanoma of the skin and death from malignant melanoma of the skin 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 malignant melanoma of the skin or death from malignant melanoma of the skin with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) suffering sunburn before the clinical onset of malignant melanoma of the skin; or
 - (b) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for malignant melanoma of the skin.
- 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 factor set out in paragraph **1(b)** applies only where:

- (a) the person's **malignant melanoma of the skin** was contracted before a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
- (b) the relationship suggested between the **malignant melanoma of the skin** 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:

"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;

"malignant melanoma of the skin" means a malignant tumour arising from the melanocyte cell lines within the skin, attracting ICD code 172;

"sunburn" means an inflammatory condition of the skin, characterised by painful erythema, blistering, swelling, or peeling lasting at least five days.

Dated this	day of	1995
The Common Seal of the)	
Repatriation Medical Authority)	
was affixed to this instrument)	
in the presence of:)	

KEN DONALD CHAIRMAN