

Statement of Principles

concerning

DENTAL PULP DISEASE (including PULPAL ABSCESS)

ICD CODES: 522.0 - 522.3

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **dental pulp disease** and **death from dental pulp disease** 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* (the Act), that the factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **dental pulp disease** or **death from dental pulp disease** with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) suffering from dental caries in the affected tooth at the time of the clinical onset of dental pulp disease; or
 - (b) suffering from inflammatory periodontal disease in the region of the affected tooth at the time of the clinical onset of dental pulp disease; or
 - (c) suffering trauma to the tooth which results in a communication channel between the pulp cavity of the affected tooth and the

periodontal tissue before the clinical onset of dental pulp disease;
or

- (d) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the dental pulp disease.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(d)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
 3. The factor set out in paragraph **1(d)** applies only where:
 - (a) the person's **dental pulp disease** was suffered before a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
 - (b) the relationship suggested between the **dental pulp disease** 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:

“dental caries” means localised destruction of calcified tissue initiated on the tooth surface by decalcification of the enamel of the teeth, followed by enzymatic lysis of organic structures, leading to cavity formation which may penetrate the enamel and dentine to reach the pulp of the tooth, attracting ICD code 521.0;

“dental pulp disease” means inflammation, infection, necrosis or degeneration of the pulp of the tooth, with or without abscess formation, attracting an ICD code in the range 522.0 to 522.3;

“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;

“inflammatory periodontal disease” means any of a group of inflammatory pathological conditions that affect the surrounding tooth attachment and supporting tissues of the teeth including gingivitis, periodontitis, and periapical disease, with or without abscess, cyst or fistula formation”, attracting ICD code 523.0 or 523.1, or an ICD code in the ranges 523.3 to 523.5 or 522.4 to 522.8;

