

REVOKED

Statement of Principles

concerning

MACULAR DEGENERATION

ICD CODES: 362.50 - 362.53

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **macular degeneration** and **death from macular degeneration** 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 factor that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **macular degeneration** or **death from macular degeneration** with the circumstances of that service, is:
 - (a) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the macular degeneration.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) the factor set out in paragraph **1(a)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factor set out in paragraph **1(a)** applies only where:

- (a) the person's **macular degeneration** 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 **macular degeneration** 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 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;

“macular degeneration” means a degenerative disorder of the macula which is that part of the retina centred on the foveola in which the ganglion cell layer is more than one cell thick and which serves central and colour vision, attracting an ICD code in the range of 362.50-362.53.

Dated this **Twenty-eighth** day of
September 1995

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN