## Statement of Principles

concerning

## **PRESBYOPIA**

ICD CODE: 367.4

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 subsection 196B(3)

- 1. Being of the view that on the sound medical-scientific evidence available to the Repatriation Medical Authority, it is more probable than not that **presbyopia** and **death from presbyopia** can be related to eligible war service (other than operational service) rendered by veterans and defence service (other than hazardous service) rendered by members of the Forces, the Repatriation Medical Authority determines, under subsection 196B(3) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act), that the factor that must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, **presbyopia** or **death from presbyopia** is connected with the circumstances of that service, is:
  - (a) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for presbyopia.
- 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 **presbyopia** 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 **presbyopia** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e) or 70(5)(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;

"presbyopia" means physiologically blurred near vision, attracting ICD code 367.4, and is due to the reduction in the power of accommodation, that is, the adjustment of the eye for seeing at different distances, accomplished by changing the shape of the lens through action of the ciliary muscle, thus focusing a clear image on the retina.

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

KEN DONALD CHAIRMAN