

REVOKED

Statement of Principles

concerning

ANGLE-CLOSURE GLAUCOMA

ICD CODE: 365.2

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **angle-closure glaucoma** and **death from angle-closure glaucoma** 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 **angle-closure glaucoma** or **death from angle-closure glaucoma** with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) the systemic administration of an anticholinergic drug immediately before the clinical onset of angle-closure glaucoma; or
 - (b) the topical administration of a miotic drug to the affected eye immediately before the clinical onset of angle-closure glaucoma; or
 - (c) the systemic administration of an anticholinergic drug immediately before the clinical worsening of angle-closure glaucoma; or

- (d) the topical administration of a miotic drug to the affected eye immediately before the clinical worsening of angle-closure glaucoma; or
 - (e) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the angle-closure glaucoma.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraph **1(a) to 1(e)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
 3. The factors set out in paragraphs **1(c) to 1(e)** apply only where:
 - (a) the person's **angle-closure glaucoma** developed before a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
 - (b) the relationship suggested between the **angle-closure glaucoma** 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:

“angle-closure glaucoma” means one of a group of eye diseases characterised by an increase in intraocular pressure which causes pathological changes in the optic disk and typical defects in the field of vision, caused by closure of the anterior chamber angle by the root of the iris in an eye which has a narrow anterior chamber angle, attracting ICD code 365.2;

“anticholinergic drug” means the drugs amitriptyline (a tricyclic antidepressant), perphenazine (an antipsychotic phenothiazine), and mydriatic drugs, that block parasympathetic nerve impulses;

“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;

“miotic drug” means a parasympathomimetic agent that causes the pupil to contract, including pilocarpine and carbachol;

“mydriatic drug” means a drug that causes pupillary dilation, including atropine, homatropine, scopolamine, cyclopentolate and tropicamide.

Dated this **Twenty-first** day of **June**
1995

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN