

Amendment Statement of Principles

concerning

OSTEOARTHRITIS  
(Reasonable Hypothesis)

(No. 76 of 2022)

The Repatriation Medical Authority determines the following Amendment Statement of Principles under subsections 196B(2) and (8) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

Dated 24 June 2022

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| The Common Seal of the Repatriation Medical Authority was affixed to this instrument at the direction of: |
| Professor Terence Campbell AM  Chairperson |

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1. Name

This is the Amendment Statement of Principles concerning *osteoarthritis* *(Reasonable Hypothesis)* (No. 76 of 2022).

1. Commencement

This instrument commences on 25 July 2022.

1. Authority

This instrument is made under subsections 196B(2) and (8) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

1. Amendment

The Statement of Principles concerning *osteoarthritis* *(Reasonable Hypothesis)* (No. 61 of 2017) (Federal Register of Legislation No. F2017L01443) is amended in the following manner:

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| **Section** | **Amendment** |
| *9(13)* | *Replace the existing factor in subsection 9(13) with the following*:  for osteoarthritis of a joint of the upper limb only:  Note: ***joint of the upper limb*** is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.   * + 1. performing:   (i) forceful or repetitive activities involving the affected joint; or  (ii) tasks involving repeated or sustained pinch grip or hand/power grip;  for an average of at least 100 hours per month, for a cumulative period of at least ten years within a continuous period of 15 years, before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint; or  Note: ***hand/power grip, pinch grip*** and ***repetitive activities***  are defined in the Schedule 1 – Dictionary.   1. using a hand-held, vibrating percussive tool or object on more days than not, for a cumulative period of at least ten years, before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint; |
| *9(35)* | *Replace the existing factor in subsection 9(35) with the following*:  for osteoarthritis of a joint of the upper limb only:  Note: ***joint of the upper limb*** is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.   * + 1. performing:   (i) forceful or repetitive activities involving the affected joint; or  (ii) tasks involving repeated or sustained pinch grip or hand/power grip;  for an average of at least 100 hours per month, for a cumulative period of at least ten years within a continuous period of 15 years, before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint; or  Note: ***hand/power grip, pinch grip*** and ***repetitive activities*** are defined in the Schedule 1 – Dictionary.   * + 1. using a hand-held, vibrating percussive tool or object on more days than not, for a cumulative period of at least ten years, before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint; |
| *Schedule 1 – Dictionary* | *Insert the following definition of "joint of the upper limb" in alphabetical order*:  ***joint of the upper limb***means the glenohumeral joint, the acromioclavicular joint, the elbow joint or any joint of the wrist or hand. |