

# REVOKED

## Statement of Principles

concerning

## **SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS**

ICD CODE: 389.10

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 **sensorineural hearing loss and death from sensorineural hearing loss** 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*, that the factors that must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, **sensorineural hearing loss or death from sensorineural hearing loss** is connected with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a)
    - (i) exposure to at least one bout of acoustic trauma without adequate ear protection before the clinical onset of sensorineural hearing loss; and
    - (ii) the clinical onset of sensorineural hearing loss occurred before 50 years of age; or
  - (b)
    - (i) exposure to at least one bout of acoustic trauma without adequate ear protection before the clinical worsening of sensorineural hearing loss; and

- (ii) clinical worsening of sensorineural hearing loss occurred before 50 years of age; or
  - (c) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for sensorineural hearing loss.
- 2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(c)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
- 3. The factors set out in paragraphs **1(b) or (c)** apply only where:
  - (a) the person's **sensorineural hearing loss** was contracted prior to a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
  - (b) the relationship suggested between the **sensorineural hearing loss** 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:

**“acoustic trauma”** means a condition of sudden aural damage resulting from short term intense exposure, or a single exposure, to loud noise such as that made, at close quarters, by:

- (a) fireworks; or
- (b) small arms fire; or
- (c) gunfire; or
- (d) grenade fire; or
- (e) exploding mines; or
- (f) major explosions;

**“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;

**“sensorineural hearing loss”** means a permanent hearing threshold shift of 20 decibels at 500, 1 000, 2 000 and 3 000 Hertz due to a defect in the cochlea or the auditory nerve whereby nervous impulses from the cochlea to the brain are attenuated, attracting ICD Code 389.10.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1994

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN