

Statement of Principles

concerning

MESOTHELIOMA

ICD CODE: 163

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **mesothelioma and death from mesothelioma** 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*, that the factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **mesothelioma or death from mesothelioma** with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) being exposed to respirable asbestos fibres in an enclosed area when such fibres were:
 - (i) applied; or
 - (ii) removed; or
 - (iii) dislodged; or
 - (iv) cut; or
 - (v) drilled,at least ten years before the clinical onset of mesothelioma; or
 - (b) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the mesothelioma.

2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) and 1(b)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factor set out in paragraph **1(b)** applies only where:
 - (a) the person's **mesothelioma** 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 **mesothelioma** 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 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;

“mesothelioma” means a malignant neoplasm of the mesothelial lining of serous cavities: the pleura; pericardium; and peritoneum, attracting ICD code 163;

“respirable asbestos fibre” means asbestos fibres, mainly less than 3 micrometres in diameter and greater than 8 micrometres in length.

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