

Statement of Principles

concerning

LOSS OF TEETH

ICD CODE: 525.1

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **loss of teeth** and **death from loss of teeth** 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 **loss of teeth** or **death from loss of teeth** with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) suffering from dental caries in the affected tooth at the time of the clinical onset of loss of teeth; or
 - (b) suffering from inflammatory periodontal disease in the region of the affected tooth at the time of the clinical onset of loss of teeth; or
 - (c) suffering from dental pulp disease (including pulpal abscess) in the region of the affected tooth at the time of the clinical onset of loss of teeth; or
 - (d) suffering from dental malocclusion at the time of the clinical onset of loss of teeth; or

- (e) suffering from craniofacial trauma resulting in loss of teeth; or
 - (f) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the loss of teeth.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(f)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
 3. The factor set out in paragraph **1(f)** applies only where:
 - (a) the person's **loss of teeth** 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 **loss of teeth** 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:

“dental caries” means localised destruction of calcified tissue initiated on the tooth surface by decalcification of the enamel of the teeth, followed by enzymatic lysis of organic structures, leading to cavity formation which may penetrate the enamel and dentine to reach the pulp of the tooth, attracting ICD code 521.0;

“dental malocclusion” means such malposition and contact of the maxillary and mandibular teeth as to interfere with their optimal function to such extent that adaptive processes have not been sufficient to prevent occlusal trauma, attracting an ICD code in the range 524.0 to 524.5 or 524.7 to 524.9.

“dental pulp disease” means inflammation, infection, necrosis or degeneration of the pulp of the tooth, each with or without abscess formation, attracting an ICD code in the range 522.0 to 522.3;

“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;

“inflammatory periodontal disease” means any of a group of inflammatory pathological conditions that affect the surrounding tooth attachment and supporting tissues of the teeth including gingivitis,

