Australian Government
Repatriation Medical Authority

Amendment Statement of Principles concerning THORACOLUMBAR INTERVERTEBRAL DISC PROLAPSE (Balance of Probabilities) (No. 75 of 2026)

The Repatriation Medical Authority determines the following Amendment Statement of Principles under sections 370CC and 370CG of the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*.

Dated 19 October 2026

Dr Anthony Lynham AO
Chairperson
by and on behalf of
The Repatriation Medical Authority

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1 Name

This is the Amendment Statement of Principles concerning *thoracolumbar intervertebral disc prolapse (Balance of Probabilities)* (No. 75 of 2026).

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on 16 November 2026.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under section 370CC and 370CG of the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*.

4 Amendment

The Statement of Principles concerning *thoracolumbar intervertebral disc prolapse (Balance of Probabilities)* (No. 69 of 2023) (Federal Register of Legislation No. F2023L00922) is amended in the following manner:

Section	Amendment
9(20)	*Insert the following factor concerning "awkward posture of the trunk" below subsection 9(19)*: having awkward posture of the trunk to a cumulative total of at least 5,000 hours within the 10 years before clinical onset or clinical worsening; Note: ***awkward posture of the trunk*** is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.
Schedule 1 – Dictionary	*Insert the following definition of "awkward posture of the trunk" in alphabetical order*: ***awkward posture of the trunk*** means persistent or repetitive forward flexion greater than 20 degrees, lateral flexion, extension, rotation or twisting of the thoracolumbar spine. Some activities that involve awkward posture of the trunk include, but are not limited to, periscope watch on submarines, bending or twisting of the trunk when moving around a submarine, "casing crawls" on submarines, repair and servicing of machinery on Naval ships including submarines, postures adopted by crews of armoured vehicles, posture adopted while occupying an observation post in a prone position, construction tasks such as brick laying, plumbing, roofing work.