

REVOKED

Statement of Principles

concerning

CONTACT DERMATITIS

ICD CODES: 692.0 - 692.6, 692.8, 692.9

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 **contact dermatitis and death from contact dermatitis** 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 a balance of probability, **contact dermatitis or death from contact dermatitis** is connected with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) having direct cutaneous exposure to an agent acting as a cutaneous irritant immediately before the clinical onset of the contact dermatitis; or
 - (b) having direct cutaneous exposure to an agent acting as an allergen before the clinical onset of the contact dermatitis; or
 - (c) having direct cutaneous re-exposure to an agent acting as a cutaneous irritant or allergen immediately before the clinical worsening of the contact dermatitis; or
 - (d) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the contact dermatitis.

2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paras **1(a) to 1(d)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factor set out in paragraph **1(c) and 1(d)** applies only where:
 - (a) the person's **contact dermatitis** 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 **contact dermatitis** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d) of the Act
4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“**allergen**” means an antigenic substance capable of producing an immediate immune response;

“**cutaneous irritant**” means an agent that inflames the skin on first exposure to it;

“**contact dermatitis**” means an acute or chronic dermatitis (skin inflammation) caused by materials or substances coming in contact with the skin, which may involve either allergic or non-allergic (irritant) mechanisms, attracting an ICD code in the range 692.0 to 692.6, or ICD code 692.8, or ICD code 692.9;

“**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.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 1995

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN