



Specialist Medical Review Council

Declarations

*Section 196W
Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*

**Re: Statements of Principles Nos. 33 & 34 of 2005
In Respect of Cervical Spondylosis
Matter Nos. 2006/15
Request for Review Declaration No. 15**

In relation to the Repatriation Medical Authority (the RMA) Statements of Principles Nos. 33 & 34 of 2005 (as amended) in respect of cervical spondylosis and death from cervical spondylosis, made under subsection 196B(2) and 196B(3) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA), the Specialist Medical Review Council (the Council) under section 196W of the VEA:

DECLARES THAT:

- the sound medical-scientific evidence available to the RMA is insufficient to justify an amendment of the Statements of Principles in respect of the factors (at 6(i) and 6(s) of Statement of Principles No 33 of 2005 (as amended) and 6(f) and 6(r) of Statement of Principles No 34 of 2005 (as amended)) relating to carrying loads on the head while upright

AND FURTHER DECLARES THAT:

- the sound medical-scientific evidence available to the RMA is insufficient to justify an amendment of the Statements of Principles

to include a factor or factors in respect of:

- a) carrying loads on the shoulder girdle and the resulting effect on the neck; and/or
- b) repetitive movement either separate to, or in conjunction with, loads on the head.

AND RECOMMENDS:

- the RMA carry out a new investigation to find out whether there is sound medical-scientific evidence to justify including a factor or factors in respect of:
 - carrying loads on the shoulder girdle and the resulting effect on the neck; and/or
 - repetitive movement either separate to, or in conjunction with, loads on the head

in Statements of Principles No. 33 & 34 of 2005; and

- for the purposes of the investigation, consider asking the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) under section 196C(2) of the VEA to:
 - carry out research (including any test or experiment) to obtain, confirm, or disprove, specific information about the prevalence of cervical spondylosis in service personnel and any potential association with carrying loads on the shoulder girdle and the resulting effect on the neck and/or repetitive movement either separate to, or in conjunction with, loads on the head; and
 - to forward a report to the RMA.

Charles Stuart

Charles Stuart
Guest

Presiding
Councillor

John Arthur Lewis Hart

John Arthur Lewis
Hart

Councillor

Geoffrey Owen Littlejohn

Geoffrey Owen
Littlejohn

Councillor

David Glen Newman

David Glen
Newman

Councillor

The Common Seal of the)
Specialist Medical Review)
Council was affixed by)
authority of the Council in)
the presence of:)



Jan Bowman

Dated this

4th

day of

July

2011