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:

DECLARATES 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
Guest
Presiding Councillor

John Arthur Lewis
Hart
Councillor

Geoffrey Owen
Littlejohn
Councillor

David Glen
Newman
Councillor

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

Dated this 4th day of July 2011

The Council's Reasons for Decisions in relation to this Declaration can be obtained on request by writing to the Specialist Medical Review Council Secretariat, PO Box 895, Woden ACT 2606 or by telephoning (08) 8290 0230.