



## Specialist Medical Review Council

### Declarations

*Section 196W  
Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*

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**Re: Statement of Principles No. 41 and 42 of 2008  
In Respect of Haemorrhoids**  
Matter Nos. 2006/3 & 4  
Requests for Review Declaration No. 14

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1. In relation to the Repatriation Medical Authority (the RMA) Statement of Principles No. 41 of 2008 in respect of haemorrhoids and death from haemorrhoids, made under subsection 196B(2) 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 to include as a factor(s) exposure to:

**the 'effect of high 'G' forces;' and/or**

**the 'effect of the anti 'G' straining manoeuvre;'**

or any other factor;

RECOMMENDS that the RMA:

- a) carry out a new investigation to find out whether there is sound medical-scientific evidence to justify including exposure to:

**the 'effect of high 'G' forces;' and/or**

**the 'effect of the anti 'G' straining manoeuvre;'**

as a factor or factors in Statement of Principles No. 41 of 2008; and

b) for the purposes of the investigation, ask 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 haemorrhoids in the cohort of RAAF fighter jet pilots and any potential association with:

**the 'effect of high 'G' forces;' and/or**

**the 'effect of the anti 'G' straining manoeuvre;' and**

– to forward a report to the RMA.

2. In relation to the RMA Statement of Principles No. 42 of 2008 in respect of haemorrhoids and death from haemorrhoids, made under subsection 196B(3) of the VEA the Council under section 196W of the VEA:

DECLARES that it is of the view that the sound medical-scientific evidence available to the RMA is insufficient to justify an amendment to include as factors any or all of exposure to:

**'the effect of high 'G' forces;'**

**'effect of the anti 'G' straining manoeuvre;'**

or any other factor; and

RECOMMENDS that the RMA:

a) carry out a new investigation to find out whether there is sound medical-scientific evidence to justify including exposure to:

**the 'effect of high 'G' forces;' and/or**

**the 'effect of the anti 'G' straining manoeuvre;'**

as a factor or factors in Statement of Principles No. 42 of 2008; and

b) for the purposes of the investigation, ask 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 haemorrhoids in the cohort of RAAF fighter jet pilots and any potential association with:

**the 'effect of high 'G' forces;' and/or**

the 'effect of the anti 'G' straining manoeuvre;' and

– to forward a report to the RMA.

Jonathan  
Phillips

Convener

Charles Stuart  
Guest

Councillor

David Glen  
Newman

Councillor

Michael David  
Levitt

Councillor

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



John O'Connor Whyte  
Executive Officer, SMRC

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2010

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.