



Ref: RMA078/22, RMA478/02, RMA475/02, RMA274/04, RMA078/21, RMA479/02

Mr Michael Manfield
By email: mmanfield@outlook.com

25 June 2026

Dear Mr Manfield,

REQUEST FOR REVIEW CONCERNING CERVICAL DYSTONIA (SPASMODIC TORTICOLLIS), CERVICAL INTERVERTEBRAL DISC PROLAPSE, CERVICAL SPONDYLOSIS, THORACOLUMBAR INTERVERTEBRAL DISC PROLAPSE & THORACOLUMBAR SPONDYLOSIS

I refer to your requests to the Repatriation Medical Authority (the Authority), made under section 196E of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA), to review the contents of the Statements of Principles concerning:

- cervical intervertebral disc prolapse (request 00221), SoPs 66 and 67 of 2023;
- cervical spondylosis (request 00222), SoPs 11 and 12 of 2023;
- thoracolumbar spondylosis (request 00223), SoPs 13 and 14 of 2023;
- cervical dystonia (request 00225), SoPs 41 and 42 of 2025; and
- thoracolumbar intervertebral disc prolapse (request 00226), SoPs 68 and 69 of 2023.

The Authority received your requests on 25 and 26 August 2025 and considered them at its meeting on 2 June 2026.

The Authority decided to conduct focused investigations into:

- cervical spondylosis;
- thoracolumbar intervertebral disc prolapse; and
- thoracolumbar spondylosis.

The Notices of Investigation for these focused investigations have been published on the Federal Register of Legislation and are enclosed for your information.

The Authority determined, under section 196CA(1)(b) of the VEA, that the available relevant information was insufficient to support the grounds for review or to otherwise warrant an investigation into the Statements of Principles for intervertebral disc prolapse and cervical dystonia.

On that basis, the Authority decided not to investigate the Statements of Principles concerning cervical intervertebral disc prolapse and cervical dystonia.

Accordingly, and in accordance with section 196CA(2) of the VEA, the Authority provides its reasons for deciding not to carry out investigations in relation to the submissions concerning cervical intervertebral disc prolapse and cervical dystonia.

Review Rights

Under section 196Z of the VEA, you may request that the Specialist Medical Review Council (SMRC) review the Authority's decision under subsection 196C(4) of the VEA not to investigate the Statements of Principles concerning cervical intervertebral disc prolapse and cervical dystonia.

Any request for review must be made within three months of the decision. The SMRC Secretariat can provide information and advice about the review process.

You may contact the SMRC through its website at www.smrc.gov.au, by email at SMRC.Registrar@smrc.gov.au, or by writing to:

The Registrar
Specialist Medical Review Council
PO Box 965
Brisbane QLD 4001

If you have any questions, please email info@rma.gov.au or telephone (07) 2149 4714.

Yours sincerely,



Anita Bentley-McAuley
a/g Registrar
Repatriation Medical Authority
