1. The Repatriation Medical Authority (the Authority) has determined, under subsection 196B(3) & (8) of the Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986 (the VEA) Statement of Principles Instrument No. 77 of 2008. This instrument amends Statement of Principles Instrument No. 34 of 2005 concerning cervical spondylosis.

2. The amendment revises the definition of 'high performance aircraft' in clause 9 of Instrument No. 34 of 2005.

3. The Instrument also specifies a date of effect for the amendment in accordance with sub-section 12(1)(a) of the Legislative Instruments Act 2003.

4. Prior to determining this instrument, the Authority advertised its intention to undertake an investigation in relation to cervical spondylosis in the Government Notices Gazette of 14 November 2007. The investigation focussed only on the issue of 'aircraft flight'. The Authority circulated a copy of the notice of intention to investigate to a wide range of organisations representing veterans, service personnel and their dependants and invited submissions from the Repatriation Commission, organisations and persons referred to in section 196E of the VEA, and any person having expertise in the field. Two submissions were received for consideration by the Authority during the investigation.

5. The determination of this new instrument finalises the investigation in relation to cervical spondylosis as advertised in the Government Notices Gazette of 14 November 2007.

6. A list of references relating to the above condition is available, on written request, from the Repatriation Medical Authority Secretariat.