Reference Determination Content

Example document — fictitious patient. A suggested draft determination prepared by the Veterans Health Centre from the matching example Diagnostic Assessment, to show how a DVA delegate could determine the claim. Names, dates, service details and clinicians are invented. It is not a decision of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Right Hip - Osteoarthritis

Evidence

The evidence that I have considered in making this decision includes:

- Formal Claim with supporting statements;
- A Statement of your Service from the Department of Defence;
- Copies of your Service Medical Records.
- A Diagnostic Assessment by Dr Thomas Perkins, General Practitioner, Veterans Health Centre, dated 3 October 2025;
- A Diagnosis Form (D9287) by Dr Thomas Perkins, General Practitioner, Veterans Health Centre, dated 3 October 2025;
- An outpatient health record by the medical officer, Naval training establishment, dated Jan 1988;
- A post-release medical examination by the medical officer, Persian Gulf, dated 2 March 1991;
- A specialist consultation and MRI by the rheumatologist, dated 11 July 1995;
- Hyperbaric medicine records by the diving medical officer, dated Jun 1998;
- A deployed health record (aspiration and operation report) by the east timor, dated 24 November 1999;
- A periodic health examination by the medical officer, Naval health centre, dated Feb 2004;
- MRI hips and haematology consultation by the haematologist, dated 14 October 2008;
- A deployed health record by the medical officer, Afghanistan, dated Jan 2010;
- A trauma admission by the CT and operation report, Role 3 hospital, Afghanistan, dated 18 April 2010;
- An endocrinology consultation and DXA by the endocrinologist, dated 8 May 2012;
- A bone scan and rehabilitation medicine review by the rehabilitation physician, dated 2013;
- Right hip radiographs by the radiologist, dated 10 June 2014;
- An outpatient health record and radiographs by the medical officer, Naval health centre, dated 26 April 2016;
- An orthopaedic consultation by the orthopaedic surgeon, dated 17 May 2016;
- An orthopaedic consultation by the orthopaedic surgeon, dated Jun 2019;

- A DXA report by the radiologist, dated 2020;
- An orthopaedic consultation and radiographs by the orthopaedic surgeon, dated 3 August 2021.

Your service

I have identified that you have the following service:
Australian Defence Force service between :

14 February 1987 and 30 November 2017

Right Hip - Osteoarthritis

You have stated that your condition was caused by:

- *having inflammatory joint disease as specified, of the affected joint before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having an infection of the affected joint as specified before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having an intra-articular fracture of the affected joint before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having haemarthrosis of the affected joint before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having a depositional joint disease as specified, in the affected joint before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having trauma to the affected joint within the 25 years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having an acute articular cartilage tear of the affected joint within the 25 years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having an acute meniscal tear of the affected knee within the 25 years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having frostbite involving the affected joint before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having disordered joint mechanics of the affected joint for at least five years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having necrosis of the subchondral bone near the affected joint, including that from dysbaric osteonecrosis, before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the upper limb only, performing any combination of repetitive activities or tasks involving repeated or sustained pinch grip or hand/power grip, for an average of at least 30 hours per week, for a cumulative period of at least ten years within a continuous period of 15 years, before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the hand, wrist or elbow joint only, using a hand-held, vibrating percussive tool or object on more days than not, for a cumulative period of at*

least ten years, within the 25 years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint

- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: having: (i) an amputation involving either leg; or (ii) an asymmetric gait; for at least five years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: lifting loads of at least 20 kilograms while bearing weight through the affected joint: (i) to a cumulative total of at least 150 000 kilograms within any ten year period before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint; and (ii) where the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint occurs within the 25 years following that period*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: carrying loads of at least 20 kilograms while bearing weight through the affected joint: (i) to a cumulative total of at least 3 800 hours within any ten year period before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint; and (ii) where the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint occurs within the 25 years following that period*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: ascending or descending at least 150 stairs or rungs of a ladder per day, on more days than not, for a continuous period of at least five years, within the 25 years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: having increased bone mineral density before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb or hand joint only: being overweight for at least ten years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb or hand joint only: for males, having a waist circumference exceeding 102 centimetres for at least ten years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb or hand joint only: for females, having a waist circumference exceeding 88 centimetres for at least ten years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a hip or knee joint only: (a) kneeling or squatting for a cumulative period of at least one hour per day, on more days than not, for a continuous period of at least two years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint; and (b) where the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint occurs within the 25 years following that period*
- *for osteoarthritis of a knee joint only, having internal derangement of the affected joint before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of the patello-femoral joint only, having chondromalacia patella before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having a disorder associated with loss of pain sensation or proprioception involving the affected joint before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having Paget's disease of bone of the affected joint before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having acromegaly before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*

- *having joint instability or dislocation of the affected joint, at least one year before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a hip joint only, having femoroacetabular impingement syndrome of the affected joint, before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*

Diagnosis: Osteoarthritis

Basis of diagnosis: The diagnosis was made in the Diagnostic Assessment by Dr Thomas Perkins dated 3 October 2025, and is supported by an outpatient health record and radiographs by the medical officer, Naval health centre, dated 26 April 2016.

I am satisfied this is the appropriate diagnosis.
In determining your claim for this condition, I have applied the SOP:

Statement of Principles concerning Osteoarthritis (Balance of Probabilities) (No. 62 of 2017)

which sets out the factors that can connect the condition with service.

I am satisfied that you have met the following factor:

- *having inflammatory joint disease as specified, of the affected joint before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having an infection of the affected joint as specified before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having an intra-articular fracture of the affected joint before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having haemarthrosis of the affected joint before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having a depositional joint disease as specified, in the affected joint before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having trauma to the affected joint within the 25 years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having an acute articular cartilage tear of the affected joint within the 25 years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having an acute meniscal tear of the affected knee within the 25 years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having frostbite involving the affected joint before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having disordered joint mechanics of the affected joint for at least five years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having necrosis of the subchondral bone near the affected joint, including that from dysbaric osteonecrosis, before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*

- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the upper limb only, performing any combination of repetitive activities or tasks involving repeated or sustained pinch grip or hand/power grip, for an average of at least 30 hours per week, for a cumulative period of at least ten years within a continuous period of 15 years, before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the hand, wrist or elbow joint only, using a hand-held, vibrating percussive tool or object on more days than not, for a cumulative period of at least ten years, within the 25 years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: having: (i) an amputation involving either leg; or (ii) an asymmetric gait; for at least five years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: lifting loads of at least 20 kilograms while bearing weight through the affected joint: (i) to a cumulative total of at least 150 000 kilograms within any ten year period before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint; and (ii) where the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint occurs within the 25 years following that period*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: carrying loads of at least 20 kilograms while bearing weight through the affected joint: (i) to a cumulative total of at least 3 800 hours within any ten year period before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint; and (ii) where the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint occurs within the 25 years following that period*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: ascending or descending at least 150 stairs or rungs of a ladder per day, on more days than not, for a continuous period of at least five years, within the 25 years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: having increased bone mineral density before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb or hand joint only: being overweight for at least ten years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb or hand joint only: for males, having a waist circumference exceeding 102 centimetres for at least ten years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb or hand joint only: for females, having a waist circumference exceeding 88 centimetres for at least ten years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a hip or knee joint only: (a) kneeling or squatting for a cumulative period of at least one hour per day, on more days than not, for a continuous period of at least two years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint; and (b) where the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint occurs within the 25 years following that period*
- *for osteoarthritis of a knee joint only, having internal derangement of the affected joint before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of the patello-femoral joint only, having chondromalacia patella before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*

- *having a disorder associated with loss of pain sensation or proprioception involving the affected joint before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having Paget's disease of bone of the affected joint before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having acromegaly before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having joint instability or dislocation of the affected joint, at least one year before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a hip joint only, having femoroacetabular impingement syndrome of the affected joint, before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint*

I have noted your contention as to the cause of this condition. The available evidence indicates, I have noted your contention to the cause of your condition. Your service medical records indicate that you presented to the health facility with right groin and buttock pain on walking and climbing ladders, morning stiffness, pain on prolonged sitting and difficulty with shoes and socks, with restricted internal rotation of the hip.Since the worsening you have had constant right hip pain, night pain, a limp, walking tolerance of 300 metres before the replacement, and inability to run, kneel or climb ladders on 26 April 2016.

The diagnosis was confirmed on radiographs of the right hip on 26 April 2016, which showed superolateral joint space narrowing, femoral and acetabular osteophytes and subchondral sclerosis, in a veteran with pain, stiffness and impaired function and internal rotation reduced to 10 degrees. This meets the Statement of Principles definition of osteoarthritis. It is not an acute articular cartilage tear or osteochondritis dissecans.

This has then led to further investigations and the diagnosis of your condition of *Osteoarthritis*. I have accepted your condition of *Osteoarthritis*.

Having considered your service records and the available medical evidence, I am satisfied the SOP is met and that this condition is related to your peacetime service.

I have therefore accepted that this condition is related to your service with effect from 19 April 2016.

Right Hip - Osteoarthritis (Worsening)

Evidence

The evidence that I have considered in making this decision includes:

- Formal Claim with supporting statements;
- A Statement of your Service from the Department of Defence;
- Copies of your Service Medical Records.
- A Diagnostic Assessment by Dr Thomas Perkins, General Practitioner, Veterans Health Centre, dated 3 October 2025;
- A Diagnosis Form (D9287) by Dr Thomas Perkins, General Practitioner, Veterans Health Centre, dated 3 October 2025;
- An outpatient health record by the medical officer, Naval training establishment, dated Jan 1988;
- A post-release medical examination by the medical officer, Persian Gulf, dated 2 March 1991;
- A specialist consultation and MRI by the rheumatologist, dated 11 July 1995;
- Hyperbaric medicine records by the diving medical officer, dated Jun 1998;
- A deployed health record (aspiration and operation report) by the east timor, dated 24 November 1999;
- A periodic health examination by the medical officer, Naval health centre, dated Feb 2004;
- MRI hips and haematology consultation by the haematologist, dated 14 October 2008;
- A deployed health record by the medical officer, Afghanistan, dated Jan 2010;
- A trauma admission by the CT and operation report, Role 3 hospital, Afghanistan, dated 18 April 2010;
- An endocrinology consultation and DXA by the endocrinologist, dated 8 May 2012;
- A bone scan and rehabilitation medicine review by the rehabilitation physician, dated 2013;
- Right hip radiographs by the radiologist, dated 10 June 2014;
- An outpatient health record and radiographs by the medical officer, Naval health centre, dated 26 April 2016;
- An orthopaedic consultation by the orthopaedic surgeon, dated 17 May 2016;
- An orthopaedic consultation by the orthopaedic surgeon, dated Jun 2019;
- A DXA report by the radiologist, dated 2020;
- An orthopaedic consultation and radiographs by the orthopaedic surgeon, dated 3 August 2021.

Your service

I have identified that you have the following service:
Australian Defence Force service between :

14 February 1987 and 30 November 2017

Right Hip - Osteoarthritis (Worsening)

You have stated that the worsening of your condition was caused by:

- *having inflammatory joint disease as specified, of the affected joint before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having an infection of the affected joint as specified before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having an intra-articular fracture of the affected joint before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having haemarthrosis of the affected joint before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having a depositional joint disease as specified, in the affected joint before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having trauma to the affected joint within the 25 years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having an acute articular cartilage tear of the affected joint within the 25 years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having an acute meniscal tear of the affected knee within the 25 years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having frostbite involving the affected joint before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having disordered joint mechanics of the affected joint for at least five years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having necrosis of the subchondral bone near the affected joint, including that from dysbaric osteonecrosis, before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the upper limb only, performing any combination of repetitive activities or tasks involving repeated or sustained pinch grip or hand/power grip, for an average of at least 30 hours per week, for a cumulative period of at least ten years within a continuous period of 15 years, before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the hand, wrist or elbow joint only, using a hand-held, vibrating percussive tool or object on more days than not, for a cumulative period of at least ten years, within the 25 years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: having: (i) an amputation involving either leg; or (ii) an asymmetric gait; for at least five years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: lifting loads of at least 20 kilograms while bearing weight through the affected joint: (i) to a cumulative total of at least 150 000 kilograms within any ten year period before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that*

joint; and (ii) where the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint occurs within the 25 years following that period

- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: carrying loads of at least 20 kilograms while bearing weight through the affected joint: (i) to a cumulative total of at least 3 800 hours within any ten year period before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint; and (ii) where the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint occurs within the 25 years following that period*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: ascending or descending at least 150 stairs or rungs of a ladder per day, on more days than not, for a continuous period of at least five years, within the 25 years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb or hand joint only: being overweight for at least ten years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb or hand joint only: for males, having a waist circumference exceeding 102 centimetres for at least ten years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb or hand joint only: for females, having a waist circumference exceeding 88 centimetres for at least ten years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a hip or knee joint only: (a) kneeling or squatting for a cumulative period of at least one hour per day, on more days than not, for a continuous period of at two years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint; and (b) where the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint occurs within the 25 years following that period*
- *for osteoarthritis of a knee joint only, having internal derangement of the affected joint before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of the patello-femoral joint only, having chondromalacia patella before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having a disorder associated with loss of pain sensation or proprioception involving the affected joint before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having Paget's disease of bone of the affected joint before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having acromegaly before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having joint instability or dislocation of the affected joint, at least one year before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a hip joint only, having femoroacetabular impingement syndrome of the affected joint, before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for osteoarthritis*

Diagnosis: Osteoarthritis (Worsening)

Basis of diagnosis: The diagnosis was made in the Diagnostic Assessment by Dr Thomas Perkins dated 3 October 2025, and is supported by an outpatient health record and radiographs by the medical officer, Naval health centre, dated 26 April 2016.

I am satisfied this is the appropriate diagnosis.
In determining your claim for this condition, I have applied the SOP:

Statement of Principles concerning Osteoarthritis (Balance of Probabilities) (No. 62 of 2017)

which sets out the factors that can connect the condition with service.

I am satisfied that you have met the following factor:

- *having inflammatory joint disease as specified, of the affected joint before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having an infection of the affected joint as specified before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having an intra-articular fracture of the affected joint before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having haemarthrosis of the affected joint before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having a depositional joint disease as specified, in the affected joint before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having trauma to the affected joint within the 25 years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having an acute articular cartilage tear of the affected joint within the 25 years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having an acute meniscal tear of the affected knee within the 25 years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having frostbite involving the affected joint before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having disordered joint mechanics of the affected joint for at least five years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having necrosis of the subchondral bone near the affected joint, including that from dysbaric osteonecrosis, before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the upper limb only, performing any combination of repetitive activities or tasks involving repeated or sustained pinch grip or hand/power grip, for an average of at least 30 hours per week, for a cumulative period of at least ten years within a continuous period of 15 years, before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the hand, wrist or elbow joint only, using a hand-held, vibrating percussive tool or object on more days than not, for a cumulative period of at least ten years, within the 25 years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*

- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: having: (i) an amputation involving either leg; or (ii) an asymmetric gait; for at least five years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: lifting loads of at least 20 kilograms while bearing weight through the affected joint: (i) to a cumulative total of at least 150 000 kilograms within any ten year period before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint; and (ii) where the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint occurs within the 25 years following that period*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: carrying loads of at least 20 kilograms while bearing weight through the affected joint: (i) to a cumulative total of at least 3 800 hours within any ten year period before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint; and (ii) where the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint occurs within the 25 years following that period*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb only: ascending or descending at least 150 stairs or rungs of a ladder per day, on more days than not, for a continuous period of at least five years, within the 25 years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb or hand joint only: being overweight for at least ten years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb or hand joint only: for males, having a waist circumference exceeding 102 centimetres for at least ten years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a joint of the lower limb or hand joint only: for females, having a waist circumference exceeding 88 centimetres for at least ten years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of a hip or knee joint only: (a) kneeling or squatting for a cumulative period of at least one hour per day, on more days than not, for a continuous period of at two years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint; and (b) where the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint occurs within the 25 years following that period*
- *for osteoarthritis of a knee joint only, having internal derangement of the affected joint before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *for osteoarthritis of the patello-femoral joint only, having chondromalacia patella before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having a disorder associated with loss of pain sensation or proprioception involving the affected joint before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having Paget's disease of bone of the affected joint before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having acromegaly before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *having joint instability or dislocation of the affected joint, at least one year before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*

- *for osteoarthritis of a hip joint only, having femoroacetabular impingement syndrome of the affected joint, before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint*
- *inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for osteoarthritis*

I have noted your contention as to the cause of this condition. The available evidence indicates, I have noted your contention to the cause of your condition. Your service medical records indicate that you presented to the health facility with right groin and buttock pain on walking and climbing ladders, morning stiffness, pain on prolonged sitting and difficulty with shoes and socks, with restricted internal rotation of the hip.Since the worsening you have had constant right hip pain, night pain, a limp, walking tolerance of 300 metres before the replacement, and inability to run, kneel or climb ladders on 26 April 2016.

The diagnosis was confirmed on radiographs of the right hip on 26 April 2016, which showed superolateral joint space narrowing, femoral and acetabular osteophytes and subchondral sclerosis, in a veteran with pain, stiffness and impaired function and internal rotation reduced to 10 degrees. This meets the Statement of Principles definition of osteoarthritis. It is not an acute articular cartilage tear or osteochondritis dissecans.

After the condition arose, it was worsened during your service. Ankylosing spondylitis involving the right hip, diagnosed in 1995, was active before the worsening on 3 August 2021, requiring prednisolone in 2018 and 2019. The septic arthritis of the right hip of November 1999 preceded the worsening. The intra-articular acetabular fracture of April 2010 preceded the worsening. The haemarthrosis of the right hip of April 2010 preceded the worsening. Haemochromatosis arthropathy, diagnosed in 2008 and treated by venesection, was present before the worsening on 3 August 2021. The fracture-dislocation of April 2010 occurred eleven years before the worsening on 3 August 2021, within 25 years. The acute articular cartilage tear of April 2010 occurred within the 25 years before the worsening on 3 August 2021. The acute meniscal tear of the right knee of April 2010 occurred within the 25 years before the worsening on 3 August 2021. The frostbite over the right hip of January 2010 preceded the worsening. The acetabular malunion with retroversion had been present for eleven years before the worsening on 3 August 2021. The dysbaric osteonecrosis of the right femoral head, shown in 2008, was present before the worsening on 3 August 2021 and contributed to the early head collapse seen in 2021. The sustained power grip of your duties from 1992 to 2006 preceded the worsening. The use of vibrating percussive tools on most days from 1993 to 2004 occurred within the 25 years before the worsening on 3 August 2021. The asymmetric gait from the sciatic nerve injury had been present for eleven years before the worsening on 3 August 2021. The lifting of about 340,000 kilograms from 1992 to 2002 preceded the worsening, which occurred within 25 years of that period. The carrying of about 3,900 hours from 1994 to 2004 preceded the worsening, which occurred within 25 years of that period. The ladder and stair climbing at sea from 2000 to 2005 occurred within the 25 years before the worsening on 3 August 2021. You were overweight from 2004 to 2021, seventeen years before the worsening on 3 August 2021. Your waist exceeded 102 cm from 2004 to 2021, more than ten years before the worsening on 3 August 2021. Your waist exceeded 88 centimetres at every measurement from 2004 to 2021, more than ten years before

the worsening on 3 August 2021. The kneeling and squatting from 2004 to 2010 preceded the worsening, which occurred within 25 years of that period. The internal derangement of the right knee from April 2010 was present before the worsening on 3 August 2021. Chondromalacia patellae of the right knee was present before the worsening on 3 August 2021. The reduced pain and position sense around the right hip and leg persisted before the worsening on 3 August 2021. Paget's disease of the right hemipelvis and proximal femur was present before the worsening on 3 August 2021. Acromegaly, confirmed in 2012, preceded the worsening. The dislocation of the right hip of April 2010 was eleven years before the worsening on 3 August 2021. Cam-type femoroacetabular impingement syndrome of the right hip, diagnosed in 2008, was present before the worsening on 3 August 2021. Total hip replacement was recommended in June 2019 but could not be obtained for 26 months while liability was disputed and you waited on a public list.

This has then led to further investigations and the diagnosis of your condition of *Osteoarthritis (Worsening)*. I have accepted your condition of *Osteoarthritis (Worsening)*.

Having considered your service records and the available medical evidence, I am satisfied the SOP is met and that the worsening of this condition is related to your peacetime service.

I have therefore accepted that the worsening of this condition is related to your service with effect from 19 April 2016.

Example document — fictitious patient. A suggested draft determination prepared by the Veterans Health Centre from the matching example Diagnostic Assessment, to show how a DVA delegate could determine the claim. Names, dates, service details and clinicians are invented. It is not a decision of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.