



WHO International EMF Project

Report on EMF activities in Australia during 2017-2018

ARPANSA EMF Activities

From ARPANSA's perspective, extremely low frequency (ELF) magnetic fields from electrical power infrastructure and radiofrequency (RF) emissions from mobile phone base stations remain the main focus of public concern within Australia. The roll-out of wireless computer networks in schools continues to cause concern in some people. There is also growing public concern about the upcoming roll out of the 5G network.

Public Information

ARPANSA provides the community with information and advice on radiation protection matters including issues related to EMF. ARPANSA also provides the "Talk to a Scientist" program so members of the public can call ARPANSA and speak with a scientist about radiation protection topics (<https://www.arpansa.gov.au/contact-us/talk-to-a-scientist>). ARPANSA is currently reviewing its website factsheets to insure the information is current and easily understood.

Radiation Literature Survey

ARPANSA has continued publishing on its web site summaries (with select comments) of recent scientific papers dealing with EMF and health (as well as other radiation types). The papers are selected on the basis of importance to the protection of health, on perceived likely interest to the wider public or where the reported research is Australian. The summaries are available at <http://www.arpansa.gov.au/RadiationProtection/EMR/literature/index.cfm>.

EMR Health Complaints Register

ARPANSA commenced Australia's first centralised Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR) Health Complaints Register in 2003. The Register collects reports of health concerns related to possible EMR field exposures in the range of 0-300 GHz. Members of the public who believe they have suffered ill-effects as a result of exposure to EMR can lodge a written complaint to the Register. The analysis of EMR Health Complaints Register Data for the period July 2017 - June 2018 is available at <http://www.arpansa.gov.au/RadiationProtection/emr/index.cfm>. A total of 2 reports were received in this period (since its commencement the Register has received a total of 163 reports). The reports included a number of subjective symptoms for which the people reporting attributed to various EMF sources, including smart meters, household electrical sources, mobile phone base stations and wireless networks.

Protection Dosimetry.

Research – EMF and Health

The majority of Australian research into health effects of EMF is funded through the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (NHMRC) from a levy on the telecommunications industry. The NHMRC is currently funding two Centres of Research Excellence in EMF:

- The Australian Centre for Electromagnetic Bioeffects Research (ACEBR)
(<https://acebr.uow.edu.au/index.html>)
- The Centre for Population Health Research on Electromagnetic Energy (PRESEE)
(<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/clinepi/presee.html>)

Policies, Legislation and Standards

Revision of RPS3

ICNIRP has released its draft high frequency guidelines and is seeking feedback via a [public consultation process](#). ARPANSA is also revising its RF Standard and will consider the ICNIRP guidelines in the revision process. In the meantime the current 2002 Standard provides adequate protection and any new changes will be small.

Conferences and Meetings

Science and Wireless

The annual Science and Wireless public event was hosted by ACEBR at RMIT University on 19 October 2017. The focus of the event was research outputs from PRESEE and ACEBR and looking into the future in terms of 5G. The program for the event is available from <https://acebr.uow.edu.au/content/groups/public/@web/@acebr/documents/doc/uow239146.pdf>.

EME Reference Group meeting

The Electromagnetic Energy Reference Group (EMERG) has been established by ARPANSA to enable input from the community and other stakeholders on issues relating to EME and health (<http://www.arpansa.gov.au/AboutUs/collaboration/emerg.cfm>). There was an EMERG meeting on 8 May 2018, which discussed 5G technology and other topics; a summary of the meeting will be posted on the ARPANSA website soon

AOCR Conference

The 5th Asian & Oceanic IRPA Congress on Radiation Protection was held in Melbourne on 20-23 May 2018. The conference included a session on 5G and other issues on EMF (<http://www.aocrp-5.org/program/>).