

WHO International EMF Project

International Advisory Committee meeting

New Zealand country report 2020

Policies and legislation on EMF exposures

Legislation and Standards

The legality of citing the New Zealand RF field exposure Standard (which is based on the ICNIRP 1998 Guidelines) in Regulations was challenged in a complaint to Parliament's Regulations Review Committee. After considering written and oral submissions from the complainant and government agencies, the complaint was not upheld.

Policies

The Interagency Committee on the Health Effects of Non-Ionising Fields met twice during the year to provide the New Zealand Director General of Health with scientific and technical advice on any potential health effects from exposures to ELF and RF fields. The results from recent research considered by the Committee have not given cause for concern or to change existing recommendations.

An addendum to the Committee's 2018 *Report to Ministers* covering 5G has been published and is available on the Ministry of Health website*.

Public concerns and information activities

There has been a steady flow of correspondence to government and government agencies regarding the potential health effects of 5G. An information sheet and questions and answers page on 5G have been added to the Ministry of Health website page that covers cellsites[†]. This page also includes a link to information prepared by the Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor. Most concerns relate to the use of millimetre wave frequencies, which is not expected in New Zealand until at least 2022.

The Ministry of Health has supported independent reviews of the research literature covering topics that have been raised in other publications. The first of these was published in August 2019[‡], with follow-up comments in November 2019[§]. Further work is due for publication soon.

Research activities

Researchers at the Massey University Centre for Public Health Research (CPHR) have contributed to further papers based on the INTEROCC data.

A report on exposures near some of the first 5G cellsites in New Zealand is available on the Ministry of Health website**.

New Zealand Ministry of Health
July 2020

* www.health.govt.nz/publication/interagency-committee-health-effects-non-ionising-fields-report-ministers-2018

† <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/environmental-health/radiation-environment/cellsites-and-5g>

‡ <https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal-articles/health-effects-of-radiofrequency-electromagnetic-energy>

§ <https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal-articles/animal-studies-of-exposures-to-radiofrequency-fields>

** <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/exposures-radiofrequency-fields-near-5g-cellsites>