

WHO International EMF Project

International Advisory Committee meeting

New Zealand country report 2014

Policies and legislation on EMF exposures

Legislation

There have been no changes to legislation since the previous IAC meeting.

The Ministry for the Environment is undertaking a routine evaluation of the effectiveness of the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission¹ and National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities². Both have been in place for several years and include sections referring to ELF field exposures.

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 and no change to existing recommendations (to comply with ICNIRP Guidelines, and apply low or no cost measures to avoid or reduce exposures) has been considered necessary.

Public concerns and information activities

The Ministry of Health website is updated regularly to add new topics of interest and add links to new information of relevance (such as national and international reviews of recent research). The full range of information on NIR is most easily accessed at www.health.govt.nz/our-work/radiation-safety/non-ionising-radiation.

There has been some localised concern about WiFi in schools, and the Ministry commissioned measurements of exposures which found that, as with similar measurements elsewhere, exposures are very low in relation to recommended safety limits³.

Research activities

Researchers at the Massey University Centre for Public Health Research (CPHR) have contributed to papers based on the INTEROCC data, which have been submitted for publication. CPHR researchers have started interviews for the New Zealand part of the MobiKids study.

A further paper has been published from Victoria University, on subjective well-being and self-reported exposure to wireless technologies.

New Zealand Ministry of Health
19 May 2014

¹ www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/nps-electricity-transmission-mar08/index.html

² www.mfe.govt.nz/laws/standards/electricity-transmission.html

³ www.health.govt.nz/publication/snapshot-study-wifi-in-schools