

# WHO International EMF Project

## International Advisory Committee meeting

### New Zealand country report 2013

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#### **Policies and legislation on EMF exposures**

##### **Legislation**

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

The Ministry for the Environment is undertaking a routine evaluation of the effectiveness of the National Environmental Standard for Telecommunication Facilities, which was introduced five years ago and requires that exposures from transmitters run by Network Operators comply with the limits in NZS 2772.1:1999 (which follow the ICNIRP 1998 Guidelines).

##### **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 information booklet on low frequency EMFs *Electric and magnetic fields and your health* has been revised to make minor changes and update some of the references. It is available at <http://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/environmental-health/radiation-environment/power-lines>.

All public information about EMFs and health has been revised in the past six months and is now accessible through the Ministry of Health website, under <http://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/environmental-health>.

The availability of good information on the WHO EMF project web site continues to be of great assistance in responding to public enquiries.

There is intermittent public concern on EMFs, mostly centred around individual cellsites and a few concerns about Smart Meters.

##### **Research activities**

Massey University Centre for Public Health Research (CPHR) is continuing analysis of the INTEROCC data. CPHR researchers have now received all the funding necessary to carry out the New Zealand part of the MobiKids study, and work on this has started.