



Analysis of EMR Health Complaints Register Data 2003-2004

ARPANSA commenced Australia's first centralised Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR) Health Complaints Register on 4 July 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. ARPANSA cannot investigate or attempt to resolve individual complaints but a standard reporting form allows people to describe the nature of their exposure and any adverse health effects they claim to have experienced. The Register operates in strict compliance with the Privacy Act 1988 and, as such, personal information on people reporting cannot be disclosed.

Reports

Since its commencement the Register has received 24 reports. Of the 24 reports, 21 were received in 2003 and 3 in 2004.

EMR sources

The sources of EMR reported, noting that some reports included more than one EMR source, are household ELF (11 reports), mobile phone base stations (2 reports), communications infrastructure (5 reports), mobile phones (7 reports), cordless phones (1 report), UHF 2-way radios (1 report), high voltage power lines (3 reports), electricity industry (1 report), radar (1 report), welding (1 report), and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan (1 report).

Health effects

Health effects reported include body pain, obsessive compulsive disorder, cyst above ear, loss of memory, empty sella syndrome and hypersensitivity to EMR, including headaches, nausea, dizziness, eczema, insomnia, lethargy and depression.

Demographics

Age

The minimum age of a sufferer was 10 yo and the maximum was 88 yo, with an average age of 56 yo.

Gender

More females reported than males: females (14, 58%) males (10, 42%).

State

Most of the people reporting were from New South Wales followed by Victoria and the other states. No reports were received from the Northern Territory: NSW (13, 54%), Vic (4, 17%), SA (2, 8%), Qld (1, 4%), WA (2, 8%), Tas (1, 4%), ACT (1, 4%), NT (0).

Other

3 people reporting were not willing to be contacted.

4 people reporting had not seen a medical practitioner about their condition.