



Australian Government

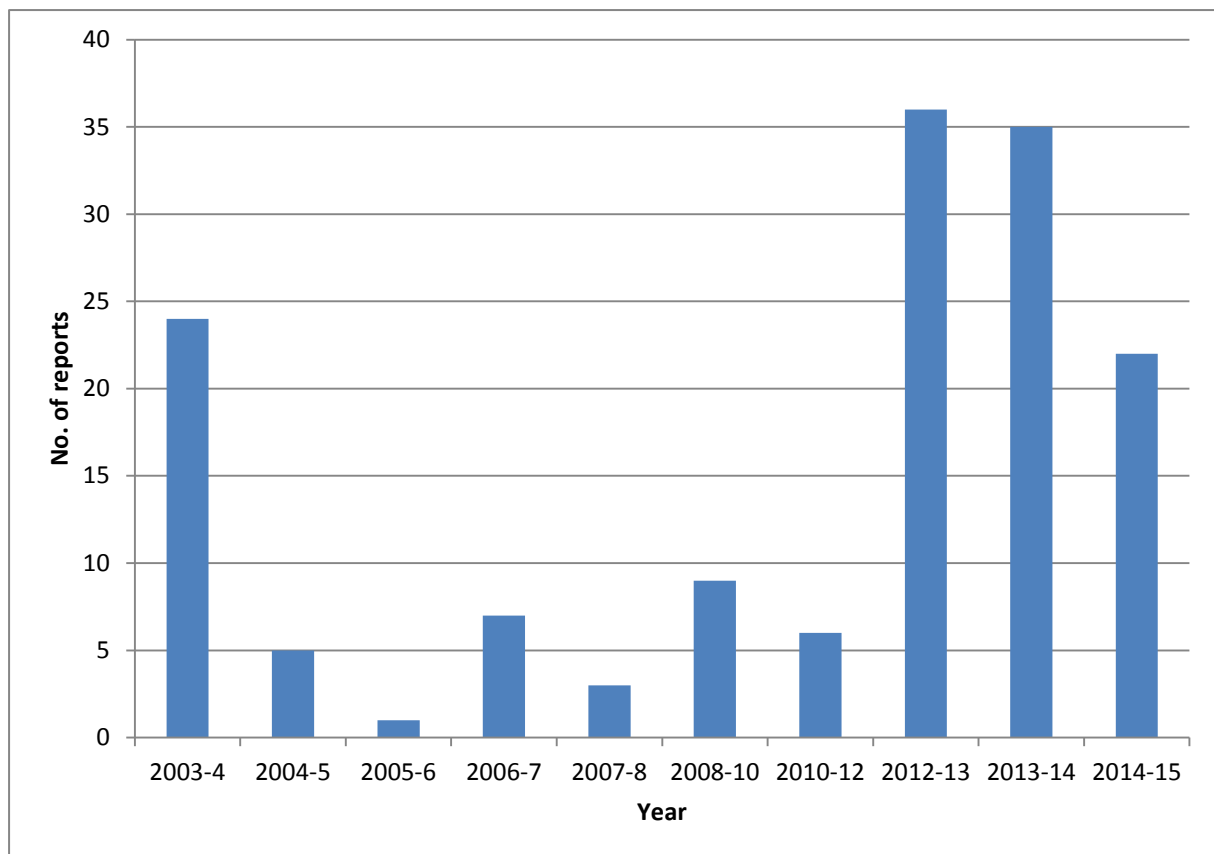
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

Analysis of EMR Health Complaints Register Data 2014–2015

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 does not 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 may not be disclosed.

Reports received

Since its commencement the Register has received 148 reports. The number of reports received for different years is shown below.



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EMR sources

The top ten sources of EMR reported during July 2014-June 2015, noting that some reports included more than one EMR source, were:

EMR source	July 2014 – June 2015	Cumulative
smart meter	15	60
mobile phones	6	37
wireless networks	4	22
household 50Hz electric and magnetic fields	3	30
mobile phone base stations	2	32
broadcast towers	1	8
cordless phones	1	11
distribution power lines	1	8
smart meter base station	1	5
compact fluorescent lights (CFLs)	1	8

Health effects

The top ten health effects reported during July 2014-June 2015, noting that the majority of the reports included more than one health effect, were:

Health effect	July 2014 - June 2015	Cumulative
Tinnitus	10	33
Headaches	8	76
Heart arrhythmia	7	29
Disturbed sleep	5	21
Lethargy	5	31
Burning sensation	4	26
Body pain	3	47
Insomnia	3	28
Poor concentration	3	20
Cancer	2	7

Demographics

Age (years)

	Min	Max	Median
July 2014 – June 2015	30	83	55
Cumulative	8	88	52

Gender (no. of reports)

	Males	Females	Not specified
July 2014 – June 2015	7 (32%)	12 (54%)	3 (14%)
Cumulative	59 (40%)	85 (57%)	4 (3%)

State (no. of reports)

	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Qld	Tas	ACT	NT
July 2014 – June 2015	4(18%)	18(82%)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cumulative	38(26%)	90(61%)	3(2%)	5(3%)	6(4%)	5(3%)	1(1%)	-

Other

- Four people reporting during July 2014 – June 2015 were not willing to be contacted (29 people in total reporting since the commencement of the register were not willing to be contacted).
- Seven people reporting had not seen a medical practitioner about their condition during July 2014 – June 2015 (32 in total since the commencement of the register).