

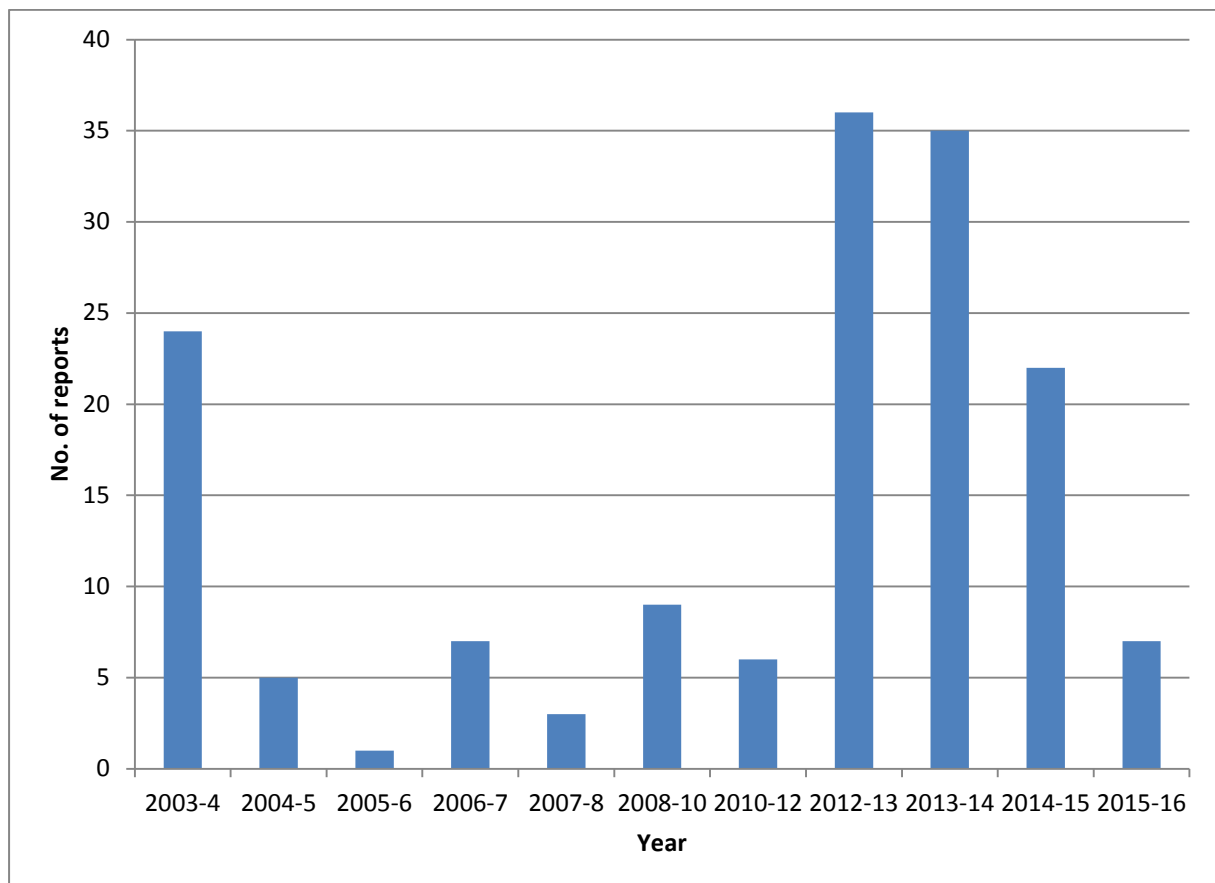


Analysis of EMR Health Complaints Register Data 2015–2016

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 155 reports. The number of reports received for different years is shown below.



EMR sources

The sources of EMR reported during July 2015-June 2016, noting that some reports included more than one EMR source, were:

EMR source	July 2015 – June 2016	Cumulative
smart meter	4	64
household 50Hz electric and magnetic fields	4	34
mobile phone base stations	3	35
electricity mains box	2	7
mobile phones	2	39
wireless networks	2	24
distribution power lines	1	9
solar inverters	1	5

Health effects

The top ten health effects reported during July 2015-June 2016, noting that the majority of the reports included more than one health effect, were:

Health effect	July 2015 - June 2016	Cumulative
Headaches	5	81
Heart arrhythmia	4	33
Nausea	3	27
Poor concentration	3	23
Anxiety	2	23
Insomnia	2	30
Lethargy	2	33
Dizziness	1	35
Burning sensation	1	27
Disturbed sleep	1	22

Demographics

Age (years)

	Min	Max	Median
July 2015 – June 2016	27	77	58
Cumulative	8	88	53

Gender (no. of reports)

	Males	Females	Not specified
July 2015 – June 2016	5 (71%)	2 (29%)	-
Cumulative	61 (39%)	90 (58%)	4 (3%)

State (no. of reports)

	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Qld	Tas	ACT	NT
July 2015 – June 2016	-	5(71%)	-	1(14%)	1(14%)	-	-	-
Cumulative	38(25%)	95(61%)	3(2%)	6(4%)	7(5%)	5(3%)	1(1%)	-

Other

- Four people reporting during July 2015 – June 2016 were not willing to be contacted (33 people in total reporting since the commencement of the register were not willing to be contacted).
- Two people reporting had not seen a medical practitioner about their condition during July 2015 – June 2016 (34 in total since the commencement of the register).
- Data on people reporting as being electromagnetic hypersensitive since the establishment of the Register was provided (with their permission) to an Australian university for research purposes.