



**Analysis of EMR Health Complaints Register Data 2005-2006**

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**

Since its commencement the Register has received 30 reports. Of the 30 reports, 24 were received in the period July 2003 – June 2004 and 5 were received in the period July 2004 – June 2005, the analyses of which are available at [http://www.arpansa.gov.au/emr\\_reg.htm](http://www.arpansa.gov.au/emr_reg.htm). Only one report was received in the period July 2005 – June 2006. The following is a cumulative analysis of the 30 reports currently in the Register.

**EMR sources**

The sources of EMR reported, noting that some reports included more than one EMR source, are household 50Hz electric and magnetic fields (13 reports), mobile phones (8 reports), communications infrastructure (5 reports), mobile phone base stations (4 reports), cordless phones (3 report), UHF 2-way radios (1 report), microwave ovens (1 report), security devices (1 report), transmission power lines (3 reports), distribution power lines (1 report), electricity industry (1 report), radar (1 report), welding (1 report), and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan (1 report)..

**Health effects**

Health effects reported, noting that the majority of the reports included more than one health effect, are: headaches (13 reports), body pain (10 reports), dizziness (8 reports), lethargy (8 reports), burning sensation (5 reports), depression (5 reports), disturbed sleep (5 reports), insomnia (5 reports), memory loss (5 reports), poor concentration (5 reports), ear ache (3 reports), nausea (3 reports), tinnitus (3 reports), anxiety (2 reports), cognitive problems (2 reports), glioblastoma (2 reports), heart arrhythmia (2 reports), irritability (2 reports), muscle spasms (2 reports), muscle stiffness (2 reports), numbness (2 reports), perceived noise (2 reports), poor vision (2 reports), profuse sweating (2 report), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (1 report), bruising (1 report), conception problems (1 report), co-ordination problems (1 report), cyst above ear (1 report), digestive problems (1 report), eczema (1 report), empty sella syndrome (1 report), eye strain (1 report), miscarriage (1 report), nervous tension (1 report), non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (1 report), obsessive compulsive disorder (1 report), prostate cancer (1 report), seizure (1 report), vomiting (1 report) and weight loss (1 report).

**Demographics**

*Age*

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

*Gender*

There were 17 (57%) reports from females and 13 ( 43%) from males.

*State*

There were 15 (50%) reports from New South Wales, 7 (23%) from Victoria, 3 (10%) from South Australia, 2 (7%) from Western Australia, and 1 each (3%) from Queensland, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. No report was received from the Northern Territory.

**Other**

Four people reporting were not willing to be contacted.

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