



Department of Health

Incorporating: Health, Mental Health and Ageing

50 Lonsdale St
Melbourne
Victoria 3000
GPO Box 4541
Melbourne
Victoria 3001
Telephone: 1300 253 942
Facsimile: 1300 253 964
www.health.vic.gov.au
DX 210311

Our Ref: dhf710/128

Your Ref:

11 APR 2013



Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your emails of 2 January and 18 March 2013 and related materials regarding radiofrequency radiation and concerns for your health. I apologise for the delay in replying.

I am sorry that you are suffering the conditions you refer to in your correspondence and that you consider radiofrequency radiation from smart meters a risk to your health.

It might assist you to be aware that approximately 75% of an individual's everyday exposure from radiofrequency radiation is from commercial television and radio services.

Australian Standards for radiofrequency exposure were last published in 2002 and are based upon the work of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

In 2009, ICNIRP stated that the scientific literature published since the 1998 ICNIRP guidelines has provided no evidence of any adverse effects below the basic restrictions and does not necessitate an immediate revision of its guidance on limiting exposure to high frequency electromagnetic fields.¹

Accordingly, it is considered that the Australian Standards for radiofrequency exposure are protective of health. I recommend that you continue to discuss your health concerns with your General Practitioner.

A specific study conducted by EMC Technologies and available at the Department of Primary Industries Smart Meter website² included a comprehensive examination of single and multi-Smart Meter installations. This study was reviewed independently by Professor Andrew Wood, Brain and Psychological Sciences Research Centre, Swinburne University of Technology who concluded: "*Since exposures from AMIs (Smart Meters) are well below those from mobile phone handsets (which were the subject of the INTERPHONE and Swedish studies) it can be said that there is no substantive evidence for health effects from exposure to AMI (Smart*

¹ ICNIRP STATEMENT ON THE "GUIDELINES FOR LIMITING EXPOSURE TO TIME-VARYING ELECTRIC, MAGNETIC, AND ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS (UP TO 300 GHZ)" PUBLISHED IN: HEALTH PHYSICS 97(3):257-258; 2009

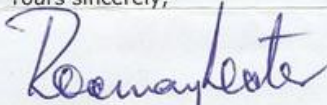
² http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/138926/AMI-Meter-EM-Field-Survey-Report-Final-Rev-1.0.pdf

Meter) radiofrequency fields". There would appear to be no requirement for any program to deal with alleged conditions of hypersensitivity.

Radiofrequency matters are considered to be outside the scope of the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act, as the Commonwealth has specific legislation (the Radiocommunications Act 1992) with the ability to both make standards for health protection and ensure compliance with them. The Department does not investigate alleged cases of hypersensitivity.

It is considered that any investigation into public health issues involving radiofrequency radiation in the communications sector be conducted by the Australian Communication and Media Authority (ACMA) as the responsible regulatory body. As previously advised in your discussions with Dr Brad Cassels, Expert Advisor Radiation within our Health Protection Branch, the ACMA is responsible for the protection of the public from radiofrequency radiation in the communications sector. Mr Chris Chapman, CEO, ACMA can be contacted via ACMA, PO Box 78, Belconnen ACT 2616.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Rosemary Lester
Chief Health Officer