

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012**

**Question: E12-035**

**OUTCOME 1: Population Health**

**Topic:** WIND FARMS – PRIORITY RESEARCH AREA

**Type of Question:** Written Questions on Notice

**Number of pages:** 1

**Senator:** Senator Back

**Question:**

Has the NHMRC announced the effects of wind turbines on human health as a priority research area? If not, why not?

**Answer:**

The Nation Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Strategic Plan 2010-2012 (Strategic Plan) describes the Agency's strategic objectives, provides the context within which its funding schemes operate and lists the major health issues for the triennium.

NHMRC research funding schemes are open to all types of health and medical research including research into the health effects of wind turbines.

In the case of the health effects of wind turbines on human health, the NHMRC has determined that the most appropriate course of action is to commission a systematic review of the international scientific literature to examine the possible impacts of wind farms on human health including audible and inaudible noise to inform a "Revised NHMRC Public Statement: Wind Turbines and Health" in 2013. This will identify any gaps in the current evidence base.