

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E12-044

**OUTCOME 1:** Population Health

**Topic:** WIND FARMS – HEALTH EFFECTS ACROSS AUSTRALIA, CANADA, EUROPE AND NEW ZEALAND

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Senator:** Senator Back

**Question:**

The NHMRC Public Statement and the Rapid Review are still being used to deny the health effects of wind turbines, not just across Australia but in the USA, Canada, Europe and New Zealand. This statement and the Rapid Review are still live on the NHMRC website.

Public Statement: There is currently no published scientific evidence to positively link wind turbines with adverse health effects.

[http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/\\_files\\_nhmrc/publications/attachments/new0048\\_public\\_statement\\_wind\\_turbines\\_and\\_health.pdf](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/new0048_public_statement_wind_turbines_and_health.pdf)

This web page is dangerous in its current form, in that people around the world are given critical information regarding human health that is out of date and in fact is now proving to be wrong.

Rapid Review:

[http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/\\_files\\_nhmrc/publications/attachments/new0048\\_evidence\\_review\\_wind\\_turbines\\_and\\_health.pdf](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/new0048_evidence_review_wind_turbines_and_health.pdf)

In light of the recent peer reviewed published scientific literature, is the NHMRC concerned that the Public Statement and Rapid Review are still being used by wind developers, and state health, planning and noise regulatory authorities to deny health effects of wind turbines? If the NHMRC is not concerned, why is that so, given its brief is to improve human health and, if not to improve it, then at least to protect it?

**Answer:**

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) 2010 Public Statement and Rapid Review on wind turbines and human health both state that there was limited scientific evidence of sufficient quality to positively link wind turbines with adverse health effects at the time. NHMRC stated that further research evidence was required in this area.

NHMRC has stated it will further investigate the impact of wind turbines on human health and has undertaken a systematic review of the peer review literature published from 1981 to September 2012. In addition it has called for public submissions of emerging evidence to be considered as a part of this review.

Both the NHMRC 2010 Public Statement and Rapid Review have been footnoted to reflect that the systematic review of the evidence regarding wind farms and human health is underway.