

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E12-045

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: WIND FARMS – PUBLIC STATEMENT

Type of Question: Written Questions on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Back

Question:

- a) John Maynard Keynes is famous, among other things, for saying "When my information changes, I alter my conclusions. What do you do, sir?" The information about the causal link between adverse health effects and excessive low frequency turbine noise has now changed, what does the NHMRC propose doing with the current Public Statement between now and when the revised Public Statement will be published on the website in April 2013?
- b) Has the NHMRC sought legal counsel in relation to liability for the Public Statement and Rapid Review still being live on the NHMRC website?

Answer:

- a) The 2010 Public Statement accurately reflected the evidence on the impact of wind farms and human health at that time. However, health and scientific research is continuous with new publications appearing each year. In 2012, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) commissioned an independent systematic review of the scientific literature to consider published peer reviewed publications, Government reports and emerging evidence submitted by the public, on the potential impact of wind farms on human health. Information regarding the systematic review and the Reference Group overseeing the review is published and regularly updated on the NHMRC website. Following the completion of the systematic review, a revised Public Statement will be published on NHMRC's website for public consultation.
- b) Yes.