

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

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

**Question: E12-046**

**OUTCOME 1: Population Health**

**Topic: WIND FARMS – PROFESSOR CHAPMAN**

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

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator: Senator Back**

**Question:**

- a) Referring to the comment by Professor Anderson in relation to Professor Chapman, "He is an employee of the University of Sydney and not of the NHMRC." Did the NHMRC pay Professor Chapman to edit, audit or peer-review the Rapid Review?
- b) Does the NHMRC endorse the public statements made by Professor Chapman asserting, without proof and contrary to the evidence and current research, that the adverse health effects reported consistently around the country, including sleep deprivation, are the product of "scaremongering" and the "nocebo effect", as he calls it.
- c) These statements are repeated in the recent New Scientist article authored by him. Specifically with reference to Professor Chapman as a peer-reviewer of the Rapid Review, is the NHMRC prepared to issue a public statement challenging and correcting Professor Chapman's assertions?
- d) If the NHMRC is not prepared to challenge the unproven assertions made by Professor Chapman is the NHMRC prepared to explain why it is not prepared to do so?
- e) Would the NHMRC also please explain what qualifies Professor Chapman to peer-review or speak on the topic at all, given that he has no qualifications in medicine or acoustics and has not bothered to speak to victims of excessive turbine noise?

**Answer:**

- a) No.
- b) They are Professor Chapman's views, not those of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).
- c) They are Professor Chapman's views, not those of the NHMRC.
- d) Professor Chapman is not an employee of the NHMRC but rather, Sydney University. Academics regularly voice their opinions on topics of interest.
- e) Professor Chapman was selected due to his experience as a public health researcher.