

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001117

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Wind Farms and Human Health

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Madigan, John

Question:

I note that the NHMRC have acknowledged that sleep disturbance is present in the limited research literature available, and I know that Mrs Annie Gardner from Macarthur has regularly been copying you in on her complaints to AGL and to the Victorian Health Department about the effect of the AGL wind turbines near her home.

- a) However are you aware that the UN Committee Against Torture have stated that prolonged sleep deprivation constitutes torture?
- b) Are you aware that public officials who intentionally allow torture to continue may be held criminally responsible?

Answer:

a) and b)

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is aware of the United Nations Committee Against Torture and the obligations of public officials under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

As part of its responsibility for ensuring that Australians receive the best available, evidence-based advice on matters relating to health, NHMRC has undertaken a comprehensive independent assessment of the scientific evidence on wind farms and human health.