

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 16, 21 October 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000723

**OUTCOME:** 1 - Population Health

**Topic:** Wind Farms and Human Health

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

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

- a) With regards to NHMRC grants re. wind farms – how much further evidence is needed to explore the relationships between noise at varying distances from wind farms and effects such as annoyance, sleep and quality of life?
- b) Is there a similar research requirement to investigate the broader social and environmental circumstances that may influence the reporting of health effects in people living near wind farms?
- c) How far do they intend to extend this line of inquiry?

**Answer:**

- a) The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) review of the evidence on the potential health effects of wind farms identified that the existing research is of poor quality and further research is warranted. As such, a onetime solicitation for high quality, independent research was sought through a Targeted Call for Research (TCR) which was released in March 2015.
- b) The TCR sought to stimulate research that:
  - explored the relationships between noise at varying distances from wind farms and effects such as annoyance, sleep and quality of life.
  - investigated the broader social and environmental circumstances that may influence the reporting of health effects in people living near wind farms.
- c) At this time there are no plans to undertake any targeted research on wind farms beyond the current TCR.

The majority of research supported by NHMRC is investigator-initiated, with the research conceived, developed and carried out by independent researchers. As with all research applications, NHMRC only funds health and medical research that has been assessed as high-quality according to rigorous independent expert review processes.