

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-013

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

TOPIC: LINK BETWEEN RADIATION AND CANCER

Written Question on Notice

Senator Xenophon asked:

Even if evidence is only beginning to emerge about the link between radiation and cancer, is it not better to take a cautious, risk-management approach and issue warnings?

Answer:

While the link between any adverse health effects and mobile phone use is far from established, the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency acknowledges the lack of absolute certainty about the safety of such exposure. For this reason ARPANSA offers advice on reducing exposure, recommends parents encourage children to make use of such methods, and includes in the ARPANSA Standard a requirement to minimise unnecessary exposure to members of the public.