

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-035

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

TOPIC: WIND TURBINES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Heffernan asked:

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) issued a Public Statement that indicates no published scientific evidence exists to positively link Wind Turbines with adverse Health effects therefore, because the position is not settled it is recommended within the Public Statement that;

- A precautionary approach should be taken in relation to further development
- research outcomes should continue to be monitored
- wind turbine design standards should be complied with
- site evaluation should occur to minimise potential impacts
- people who believe they are experiencing health problems should consult their Doctor promptly

This being the case, what strategy has the NHMRC adopted to ensure the expedient use of the Public Statement, by Wind Developers, has been in compliance with its intent and factually correct?

Answer:

The NHMRC's legislated role includes providing evidence-based health advice to government and the Australian public. The NHMRC does not regulate or control how that advice is used once it is in the public domain.