

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-038

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

TOPIC: WIND TURBINES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Heffernan asked:

The National Health and Medical Research Council advises that "there is currently no published scientific evidence to positively link Wind Turbines with adverse Health effects" however, the NHMRC also advises "the Public Statement and Report are a form of advice to the community about the current state of published scientific literature on wind turbines and their effect on health. It is important to note that, as evidence reviews, they are not a scientific investigation conducted by NHMRC itself "Because only a small body of robust scientific evidence currently exists in this field, NHMRC is continuing to monitor the scientific literature"

The NHMRC is conducting a workshop in early June for participants to review the Public Statement and Report.

- a) What is the intent of conducting the June Workshop?
- b) Who has been invited?
- c) Please confirm the cost for this workshop including any royalties and/or travel to be paid to any "experts".
- d) Was any funding received from the Wind Industry or any organisation linked to the Wind Industry, developers or manufactures? If so, please list organisation and contribution?
- e) Please name and confirm the professional qualifications of the invited "experts" and justify their relevance to your workshop.

Answer:

- a) The intent of the scientific forum held on 7 June 2011, was to enable the NHMRC to update the Public Statement. To do this the Office of the NHMRC aimed to:
 1. identify further Australian and international evidence related to possible health impacts of wind farms;
 2. consult with stakeholders to ensure that the NHMRC is aware of the range of issues over which there is public concern;
 3. identify any gaps in the evidence on this issue; and
 4. explore possible collaborations within the health, environmental health, planning, industry and community sectors to progress this issue.
- b) Invitees included members of the public who had identified health concerns, several leading international and Australian researchers, government representatives from the health and planning sectors and representatives from industry. A complete list of attendees is at [Attachment A](#).

- c) The total cost for the meeting was \$22,204. Royalties were not paid to any presenters. Travel costs were paid for members of the public.
- d) Funding was not received from the Wind Industry or any organisation linked to the Wind Industry, developers, or manufacturers of wind turbines.
- e) The professional qualifications and justification of relevance of the invited expert presenters is at Attachment B.