

Research into Possible Health Effects, Australia

Professor Donald Cameron

Chair of EME Expert Committee,
National Health and Medical Research Council

In 1996 in response to public concern about possible health effects from EME emissions, the Australian Government established an EME program with two components, 1) Research, 2) Public Dissemination of Information. NHMRC was asked to run the research program. This program was funded by a levy on industry. The research agenda was developed being mindful of the priorities recommended by WHO.

Two rounds of targeted research have been held. The first funded:

- a study of the effect of GSM-like fields on cancer incidence in Eu-pim-1 mice - a replication of the study of Repacholi et al,
- a pilot study for the IARC case control study of brain and other tumours,
- a study on the effects of 900Mhz RF radiation on human neuropsychological responses
- a pilot study of the effects of RF exposure on intrachromosomal recombination in mutation and cancer.

The second round allocated funds for:

- a full case control study in relation to brain and other tumours
- a study of mobile phone exposure on sleep and neuropsychological parameters
- an epidemiological study of effects of long term mobile phone use on vision and hearing.

Recently, the EME Expert Committee sought Expressions of Interest from groups to establish a Centre of Research Excellence in EME research with the aims of conducting research, increasing research capacity, encouraging multi-disciplinary collaborations and fostering collaborations between different organisations.