

Our mission is to ensure the environment & communities are safe from harmful electro-magnetic radiation.



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15 May 2019

Mr Peter Riordan
Deputy Secretary, Corporate Services,
The New South Wales, Department of Education and Training,
105 Phillip St,
Paramatta, NSW 2150.
Via e-mail: [REDACTED]
Ref: DGL 19 / 287

Dear Deputy Secretary Riordan,

Thank you for your correspondence of 8 May, 2019.

Your advice that we share a genuine concern for the health and wellbeing of students, staff and visitors to schools, is reassuring. Your permission is sought to post your correspondence of 15 May, on our web and our social media sites, for the public interest.

It is agreed that computers are an essential part of the school curriculum. However, we maintain the view that a constant dosage of microwave radiation poisoning should not be a part of the daily school curriculum, and can be reasonably mitigated by hard-wiring¹ computers in class.

Risk to health has been undeniable since at least 2001, when the Australian Senate² acknowledged a health risk and recommended the Precautionary Principle be applied. Since then, the risk from microwave radiation has been re-informed with a Class 2B carcinogen classification by the World Health Organisation. ARPANSA also state: "research relating to children is limited and the possibility of harm cannot be ruled out". We have not been able to identify an acknowledgement of risk in any current Department policy documents, available on the Department's web-site.

We believe it is in the public interests that the Department now inform ECSFR who originally advised the Department, on health grounds, that Wi-Fi was safe to install in schools (e.g. presented no risk)? If there was risk to health identified in the advice, who made the decision on what was an acceptable level of harm to children, staff and visitors and how was informed consent to risk of harm to children provided?

¹ Or using fibre-optic cables.

²

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/Completed_inquiries/1999-02/emr/report/index

Moreover, it has come to our attention that the Department of Education, operate an ARUBA wi-fi product at Byron Bay Primary (and perhaps other schools). I draw your attention to an extract from an ARUBA product manual³ (emphasis added) "RF Radiation Exposure Statement: This equipment complies with FCC RF radiation exposure limits. The antenna(s) used for this transmitter must be installed to provide a separation distance of at least 20 cm from all persons⁴ and must not be co-located or operating in conjunction with ANY other antenna or transmitter." Admitting hundreds of additional transmitters in the form of student laptops⁵ and phones to the school premises, and co-locating with overlapping transmitter signal from multiple adjacent classroom wi-fi routers, cellular towers and possibly smart meters, may well satisfy the test of "co-location or operating in conjunction with" – placing the installation in breach of ARUBA's radiation safety specifications, even under existing ARPANSA guidelines⁶.

ECSFR are happy to refer you to any scientific, medical or legal experts, many of whom volunteer their valuable time to effect positive change. We believe the EMR 'community' would welcome assisting the Department with any considered retreat from exposing children to risk of harm.

We advise that this correspondence is to be posted on the ECSFR electronic media media as it is in the public interest to do so.

We acknowledge the Department is following due process and await your further response to the matters raised in our letters of 11 April, and the matters raised herein.

It is our view that in matters of child safety, time is of the essence.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen J. Toneguzzo

Chair (www.ecsfr.com.au)

(B.E.Eng., Grad.Dip.Comp.Sc., M.Eng.Sc., CPEng., Fellow IEAUST., NER, APEC, IntPE(Aus)).

³ <https://content.etilize.com/User-Manual/1024255109.pdf>

⁴ Wi-Fi is installed in ceilings, and children sit on the floor above...a further breach of safety specifications?

⁵ We understand that children sit with wi-fi enabled computers on their laps, touching their body (another probably breach of existing manufacturer radiation safety requirements).

⁶ Which may well be invalid as the emphasis is on level of radiation and not dosage, further compounding risk of harm.