

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

Z16000341

9 March 2016

Janobai Smith
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Dear Ms Smith,

Thank you for your email of 22 February 2016 concerning the Australian Radiation and Nuclear Protection Agency's (ARPANSA) response to the screening of the Catalyst episode 'Wi-Fried'.

ARPANSA provides expert advice on radiation protection and nuclear safety matters to the Australian Government. In order to provide the best advice on the protection of the Australian public from the effects of radiation, ARPANSA undertakes its own research and reviews the relevant scientific research, including exposure to radiofrequency (RF) electromagnetic energy (EME) emissions from wireless devices such as Wi-Fi.

ARPANSA's web statement on the Catalyst episode is based on our assessment of the scientific evidence on mobile phones, Wi-Fi devices and health and is in line with international best practice; including the advice provided by the peak international health authority, the World Health Organization, and the peak international authority on the protection of RF EME, the International Commission on Non-lonizing Radiation Protection.

You will find that we are in agreement with many of the statements from various organisations that you mention. For example we have acknowledged the findings of the INTERPHONE study (http://www.arpansa.gov.au/News/MediaReleases/archive/mr1 170510.cfm) and do comment on these findings in our statement. We also provide information that draws users' attention to manufacturers' advice regarding spacing from the body if phones are to be attached to belts or placed in pockets (http://www.arpansa.gov.au/mobilephones/index.cfm).

I consider that ARPANSA's precautionary statements on mobile phone use against the head are appropriate. While some authorities have issued stronger warnings, ARPANSA believes that these are divergent from international best practice and are not justified on the scientific evidence.

ARPANSA shares your concern for the health and wellbeing of Australians, even if we may not always agree on cause and effect. ARPANSA will continue to review the research into the potential health

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effects of the RF emissions from Wi-Fi and other wireless devices in order to provide accurate and up-to-date advice to the Australian Government and the Australian people.

Yours sincerely

Carl-Magnus Larsson

CEO of ARPANSA