



Oceania Radiofrequency
Scientific Advisory Association

OCEANIA RADIOFREQUENCY SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY ASSOCIATION INC.



Attn. Complaints Officer,
Network Ten Limited,
GPO Box 10
Sydney NSW 2000

31 October 2017

False comment by Dr. Karl Kruszelnicki (Dr Karl) on ‘The Project’ Risks Health of Australians and Breaches the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice Accuracy and Fairness (Section 3.3)

As the only independent scientific organization investigating the health effects of wireless radiation in this country, which technically speaking is microwave radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation (RF-EMR), ORSAA respectfully submits the complaint below, regarding a false and dangerously misleading comment made by Dr. Karl on ‘The Project’ on the 29th October 2017 where he said ***“The amount of proof that telephones and Wi-Fi is dangerous to your health is zero”***

Dr Karl’s comment gives a false sense of safety to viewers about wireless devices that emit RF-EMR, at a time when research scientists across the globe are advising the use of the Precautionary Principle and the minimisation of public exposure to this form of radiation. Statements such as those made by Dr Karl make light of this serious matter, potentially risking the health of millions of Australian viewers. In contrast to such statements, many countries have recently taken steps to reduce public exposure to wireless radiation. For instance, last year France banned Wi-Fi in facilities used by small children and early this year the Cyprus government issued a decree to remove wireless devices from kindergartens and halt installation in elementary classrooms.

Dr Karl’s statement further contradicts the evidence-based advice of reputable medical organizations such as **The European Academy for Environmental Medicine (EUROPAEM)**, whose 2016 guidelines for treatment of EMR-related illnesses states: *Studies, empirical observations, and patient reports clearly indicate interactions between EMF exposure and health problems. Individual susceptibility and environmental factors are frequently neglected. New wireless technologies and applications have been introduced without any certainty about their health effects, raising new challenges for medicine and society. ...On the one hand, there is strong evidence that long-term exposure to certain EMFs is a risk factor for diseases such as certain cancers, Alzheimer’s disease, and male infertility. On the other hand, the emerging electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS) is more and more recognized by health authorities, disability administrators and case workers, politicians, as well.* (<https://europaem.eu/en/library/blog-en/97-europaem-emf-guideline-2016>)

Furthermore, **The American Academy of Environmental Health (AAEH)** recognises “a range of non-thermal based negative health effects” related to wireless radiation; i.e., *The fact that RF exposure causes neurological damage has been documented repeatedly. Increased blood-brain barrier permeability and oxidative damage, which are associated with brain cancer and neurodegenerative diseases, have been found... Genotoxic effects from RF exposure, including studies of non-thermal levels of exposure, consistently and specifically show chromosomal instability, altered gene expression, gene mutations, DNA fragmentation and DNA structural breaks.* (https://www.aeonline.org/emf_rf_position.php)



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We also draw your attention to the **International EMF Scientists Appeal to the UN and the WHO** (<https://www.emfscientist.org/>) whereby 235 scientists from 41 countries (including former long-serving Australian Chief Medical Officer for Telstra, Dr. Bruce Hocking, and renowned neurosurgeon Prof. Charlie Teo) who have studied biological/health effects of electromagnetic radiation, have warned about the adverse health effects from wireless radiation exposure.

In particular, Dr. Karl's statement was misleading to 'The Project' audience due to his use of the word "proof". With regards to scientific evaluation of the risk of an environmental pollutant like RF-EMR (entirely man-made and added to the environment to maintain wireless communications), it is not proof that scientists are looking for. One must understand, to quote ARPANSA, *scientific studies are designed not to give 'proof', but are designed to disapprove or 'falsify' the current hypothesis or accepted viewpoint on an issue.* On that point, the available scientific evidence is very strong, now with irrefutable evidence of biological effects that have the potential to cause harm occurring at levels of exposure currently permitted in Australia.

We therefore urge you to make a correction on 'The Project' advising your audience that there is in fact scientific evidence of adverse health effects, as an example, there are numerous studies showing an increased risk of brain cancer associated with wireless radiation from mobile and cordless phones. Such a correction would mitigate against the potential health risks to viewers created by Dr Karl's statement on "The Project".

Our organization (ORSAA) maintains and provides the world's largest categorized database of peer-reviewed scientific papers on RF-EMR bioeffects. Furthermore, ORSAA scientists have presented at the annual conference of the Australian Radiation Protection Society (ARPS) in August this year, revealing the existing scientific evidence that Australia is risking public health by using ARPANSA's current incomplete and flawed evaluation of this evidence.

The corroborating scientific evidence can be scrutinized by anyone who is interested by visiting our database at www.orsaa.org. It is based on this accumulated scientific evidence that our organization recommends exposure reduction in conjunction with the application of a precautionary approach (aka precautionary principle), which includes prudent avoidance of having wireless RF-EMR emitters near children. We would welcome an invitation for one of our scientists to appear on 'The Project' to discuss this evidence in a future episode.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vic Leach". Below the signature is a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line.

Vic Leach
ORSAA Secretary

Phone : 07 3880 2856