

# NO Towers Near Schools ☺☹

Update – May 20, 2010

## RAINWORTH/BARDON RESIDENTS

[International Agency for Research on Cancer](#)



## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION RECOGNISES THE DANGERS OF EMR

News about the results of the WHO's Interphone study hit the news this week and validated our community's concern about exposure to electromagnetic radiation.

The results found that cancer risk increases with exposure to EMR.

Although the study, by WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), centered on mobile phone use, the use of mobiles (and, therefore exposure to EMR) is discretionary – whereas mobile phone base stations constantly emit EMR (and constantly expose the community). If EMR from mobile phones can, as this study demonstrates, increase cancer risk for some mobile phone users, our community is entitled to voice its deep concern that EMR from mobile phone base stations might also increase cancer risk – particularly in our children, with their smaller bodies and less developed immune systems. As well, let's not forget that the facility proposed for 27 Gerler St would be the third highest emitter of EMR out of 31 mobile phone facilities in our area – and it would be six times stronger (that means it would emit six times more EMR) than the current phone tower in Main Ave.

Even with all the international effort, years of research and money that's been thrown at the Interphone study, it cannot be shown that exposure to EMR is safe. Even scientists involved suggest a precautionary approach with regard to EMR exposure is advisable: **“...as with a lot of exposures where there's some doubt that still remains then to reduce exposure where you can always would seem a sensible approach...”**  
*(Dr Christopher Wild, Interphone Study press conference, WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland, 17.05.10)*

### FACTS ABOUT THE INTERPHONE STUDY:

- This study looked at mobile phone use from 2000 to 2004. It concluded six years ago. Why have the results been withheld for more than half a decade?
- It considered that “high mobile phone use” (the top 10 percent of users in the study) included those who spoke on mobiles for a cumulative total of 30 minutes/day. Mobile phone use, though, has changed greatly since 2004 when the study concluded. Anecdotally one could expect that, today, use of a cumulative 30 minutes/day would be on the lower end of normal, rather than the top percentage.
- It found that this “top 10 percent” of users were at a 40 percent increased risk of brain cancer.
- It did NOT include children and effects of EMR on smaller bodies and less-developed immune systems.
- To date, Interphone has only reported on two types of cancer (glioma and meningioma). Scientists, including Australian neurosurgeon Dr Charlie Teo, have said other cancers need to be investigated.
- Many more results from this study are still to be published – the scientists involved cannot agree and so, six years since the end of the study, the world is still waiting.
- The report highlights that further study needs to be done, particularly with regard to increased patterns of mobile phone usage and in relation to the use of mobile phones by young people.

To read about the study yourself, go to the IARC website:  
[http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2010/pdfs/pr200\\_E.pdf](http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2010/pdfs/pr200_E.pdf)

## READ ALL ABOUT IT: BODY CORPORATE COMMISSION RULING

As we've said previously, the Body Corporate Commission handed down its final ruling on 31.03.10 in the case of 27 Gerler St, finding that Telstra DID NOT hold a valid lease with the owners of the property to install its proposed mobile phone facility. We encourage you to take a moment to read this ruling for yourself. As members of our community we all paid for this, so have a look at the results of where the community's money has gone. The ruling is available through the Australasian Legal Information Institute website: <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/qld/QBCCMCMr/2010/152.html>.

### “NO” MEANS “NO”, TELSTRA

Owners of 27 Gerler St units have said **NO** to Telstra.

Our community has said **NO** to Telstra.

The Body Corporate Commission has said **NO** to Telstra.

All of our elected representatives have said **NO** to Telstra.

Other political supporters of our cause have said **NO** to Telstra.

Despite all this, less than a fortnight ago, Telstra's Director of Govt Relations wrote to WA Senator Scott Ludlam and said "...plans for the preferred placement at 27 Gerler St [were] delayed...". Not "out-of-the-question", "off-the-table" or "shelved" – just "delayed". Clearly, Telstra still has the location in its sights. The letter to Senator Ludlam suggested the possibility of a Land Access and Activity Notice (or LAAN). Telstra continues to brandish the fact to our elected representatives and supporters that it is the company's RIGHT under the legislation to force this mobile phone facility onto the owners of 27 Gerler St (despite vehement objection) and onto our community. Interestingly, Telstra's letter also mentions "consulting widely with the community's elected representatives" about possible alternate sites – but our elected representatives tell us they haven't received any plans at all for these. Telstra seems to be persisting with its intention to enter our area – and disregarding our deep concerns about placement of this proposed facility near our school.

When does NO mean NO to you, Telstra? Why aren't you listening? Can't you hear the 27 Gerler St owners, our community, the Body Corporate Commission, all our elected representatives and our political supporters – who all know that this is not an appropriate site for this facility?

### WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

Our community obviously needs to tell Telstra again that NO means NO. Let's keep telling them until they hear us.

We urgently request that you write to the Chairman of the Telstra Board of Directors and CC our political representatives and supporters about this issue. Some points you may wish to raise are:

- This battle has been ongoing since September last year.
- Owners of 27 Gerler St units have repeatedly said **NO** to Telstra.
- Our community has repeatedly said **NO** to Telstra.
- The Body Corporate Commission has said **NO** to Telstra – in an interim and a final ruling.
- All of our elected representatives have repeatedly said **NO** to Telstra.
- Other political supporters of our cause have repeatedly said **NO** to Telstra.
- There ARE other more appropriate sites that are further from community-sensitive locations (e.g. Rainworth State School and the aged-care facility in Main Ave).
- Telstra has the opportunity to do the right thing here. If Telstra uses a more appropriate location for its facility, this *could* be an example of Telstra responding appropriately to deep community concerns.

#### Send your letters to:

- Catherine Livingstone, Chairman, Telstra Board, C/- Company Secretary, Carmel Mulhern - [companysecretary@team.telstra.com](mailto:companysecretary@team.telstra.com)

#### CC letters to:

- Senator Stephen Conroy - [senator.conroy@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.conroy@aph.gov.au)

- Andrew Fraser, MP - [mount.coot-tha@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:mount.coot-tha@parliament.qld.gov.au)
- Arch Bevis, MP - [Arch.Bevis.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Arch.Bevis.MP@aph.gov.au)
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