

NO Towers Near Schools

STATELINE – TELSTRA SPIN... AND NOW THE SUBSTANCE

There's been more coverage of our community's battle against Telstra's proposed mobile phone facility at 27 Gerler St – on ABC's *Stateline*.

Unfortunately, Telstra's spin was in full swing again (yes, again) so we've had to question information provided by Telstra's representative in the story. This email provides a more thorough picture than Telstra presented in that program.

Telstra's representative started well when he said that the best thing the company could do was "to provide good information". Unfortunately, the same representative went on to make some points about electromagnetic radiation (EMR) from television transmitters on Mt Coot-tha (given that our community is in the shadow of Mt Coot-tha), which gave our group cause for concern and which we didn't feel was "good information". He said: "In fact, about 94% [of EMR in our area] comes from broadcast TV."

SPIN ALERT: It's not so much what Telstra's rep did say as what he *didn't* say.

So concerned was our community action group about the thoroughness of the information Telstra's representative gave that we consulted an expert in the field. Professor David Thiel is the Director of the Centre of Wireless Monitoring and Applications within the school of Engineering at Griffith University. Professor Thiel's response to this information given by Telstra's representative was as follows:

- Telstra advises that the EMR from TV stations makes up 94 percent of the EMR in Bardon, whilst phone towers only 6 percent. This conveniently avoids the issue that the effect on the body may be very different.
- Telephone signals are pulsed, whereas TV and radio signals are continuous. There are also significant differences in the frequency: Phones (800-900Mz, 1800 MHz and higher); TV (50-300 MHz); and radio (FM is around 100 MHz).
- It is the high frequency and pulsing action of the EMR from mobile phone technology that can potentially have greater non-thermal biological effects on the body at cellular level.
 - EMR from TV antennas has been part of our lives since before we were born and, as a result, the long-term effects on the body are **known**.
 - Mobile phone technology is in its infancy and the long-term effects are **unknown**.
 - It has been predicted that the high-frequency, pulsed signals from mobile phone technology may cause adverse cellular effects on the body, particularly the bodies of growing children and the elderly.
- There have been no very long-term studies completed in this area generally and no studies of any kind on children. This is why we recommend a precautionary approach in the siting of base stations near schools and other sensitive locations.

One thing that was good to hear Telstra's representative admit in the *Stateline* program, though, was that Telstra has been taken aback by the strength of the

response in our community. One has to wonder, though, if Telstra is still speculating whether Bardon has the resolve to see this through.

Just to be completely clear, Telstra: Make no mistake – we WILL see it through. We WILL continue to fight for our community. We WILL continue to fight for what is right. You CANNOT steamroll this community.

In case you missed the Stateline segment, here's a link to the program's website: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/video/2010/05/28/2912613.htm>