

Cellphone Standard's Inquiry
by the
Australian Senate

- Thursday, 31 August 2000 -

STANDING COMMITTEE
ON THE
ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNICATIONS,
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
AND THE ARTS

This is an uncorrected copy of the
Transcript of
Dr Michael Repacholi's - WHO
appearance at the Australian Senate Inquiry
into cellphone and health standards.

- Extract p. 09 -

Sen. ALLISON (Chair)

Dr Repacholi, what I am trying to get at is this: what we understand to be the case is that Australian standards are likely to be relaxed, and they are to be relaxed in line with your recommendations for harmonisation. **What I think the committee needs to understand is why it is that Australian standards should be relaxed to this harmonisation level.**

Another aspect of this is why the World Health Organisation should play a role.

I am sure we can understand why the industry would want harmonisation, **but why should that be of concern to the World Health Organisation?**

Dr. REPACHOLI

There are two questions there. I was involved in the early attempts to develop an Australian standard. The standard was developed primarily on the international standard at the time and follows the international standard except in one region, called the microwave region.

There was so much discontent about this that the level ended up being a negotiated level.

It was not based on the science.

Everything was based on the science up to that point, but the last part was not based on the science-it was negotiated between the unions and the government at the time.

Sen. ALLISON (Chair)

Is the new standard based on science?

Dr. REPACHOLI

Australia does not have a standard at the moment.