

University joins mobile research

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SWINBURNE University will be part of a \$2.5 million five-year research project into the possible health effects of mobile phones and towers. Kooyong Federal Liberal MP Petro Georgiou said researchers from Swinburne would join scientists from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Monash University, Telstra Research Laboratories and the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Adelaide. Mr Georgiou said the creation of the Centre of Research Excellence in Electromagnetic Energy would be established by a grant through the National Health and Medical Research Council. "Although no one has conclusively established a health risk through the use of mobile phones, we need to broaden and strengthen Australia's research effort in this area," Mr Georgiou said. NHMRCI spokeswoman Anna Manzoney said last week Dr Rodney Croft would co-ordinate Swinburne's research contribution. Dr Croft heads the university's psychological and neural function research unit, which is based at the university's Hawthorn campus, and is in the midst of an international study which has a \$500,000 contribution from the Federal Government to examine the effect of mobile phones on brain function. The new centre will receive an additional \$500,000 a year for five years to conduct research under the guidance of Professor Irena Cosic of RMIT.