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Cancer cluster causes office panic

Health authorities are trying to calm workers in Melbourne, insisting there is no link between mobile phone towers and brain tumors diagnosed in co-workers.

The cases of seven people who worked on the top floors of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology university building -- and who have been diagnosed with brain tumors in the past seven years -- were no more than "coincidence," said officials. Five of the cases emerged in the past month, while the other two appeared in 1999 and 2001.

Former co-workers are struck with panic over the apparent cancer cluster, The Australian reported.

The university shut down the top two floors while it awaited an investigation into mobile phone radiation emissions coming from towers on the roof.

"There were five benign tumors and two malignant cases (and) that tells me immediately that they haven't all got the same tumor and that makes it much less likely that there's a common cause," said Professor Michael Abramson of the Australian Center for Radiofrequency Bioeffects Research.

"To be quite frank, I think it's an unfortunate coincidence," Abramson told The Weekend Australian.