

Students skip RMIT classes

CANCER SCARE Lyndal Cairns
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STUDENTS scared of developing cancer are calling for RMIT to close a third of its Bourke St business school. Some students are so concerned they are avoiding classes at the building at the centre of last week's brain tumour scare. RMIT student union president Dan Thomas said the university's decision to shut the top two floors did not go far enough, and students wanted six floors made off-limits. Investigations continue this week to find out if radiation in the building, which has mobile phone towers on its roof, may have caused brain tumours in seven staff members since 1999. "It's incredibly scary to think this building was deemed safe for over 10 years," Mr Thomas said. He said many students were staying away until investigations were done. "The top two floors were where most of the tumour clusters were the towers are the obvious culprit" he said.

However, Monash University mobile phone radiation expert Michael Abramson said it was "very unlikely" the tumours were linked to the towers. Prof Abramson said a Swedish study found a link between older analogue phone towers and one type of brain tumour, but the RMIT staff had different types of tumours so a connection was unlikely.

An RMIT spokesman said the closure was precautionary to allow testing. He said that, while there was no evidence of a particular problem, preliminary results were expected today and more in-depth testing would be known by late next week.

Are you concerned about mobile phone towers and health effects? Join our SMS poll on this page.

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