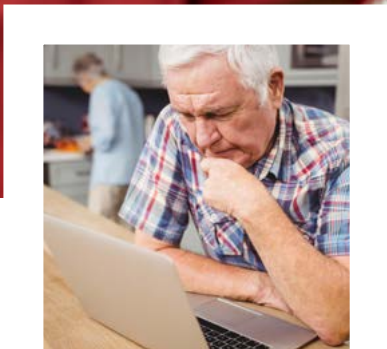
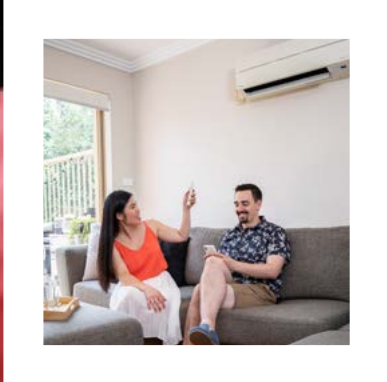




ACT
Government

HEALTH AND WELLBEING OUTCOMES FROM THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME



THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (EEIS) HAS BEEN DELIVERING ENERGY EFFICIENT HEATERS TO HOUSEHOLDS ACROSS CANBERRA SINCE THE END OF 2017. HOUSEHOLDERS HAVE REPORTED IMPROVEMENTS IN COMFORT, PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS IN A RECENT PHONE SURVEY.

COMFORT AND ROOM TEMPERATURE

Scheme participants were enthusiastic about the impact of their new appliance in keeping their home comfortable in summer and winter, with 76% believing it had made a substantial impact¹.

Those who reported that the installation had helped to improve comfort focussed on the efficiency and effectiveness of the new appliance:

“

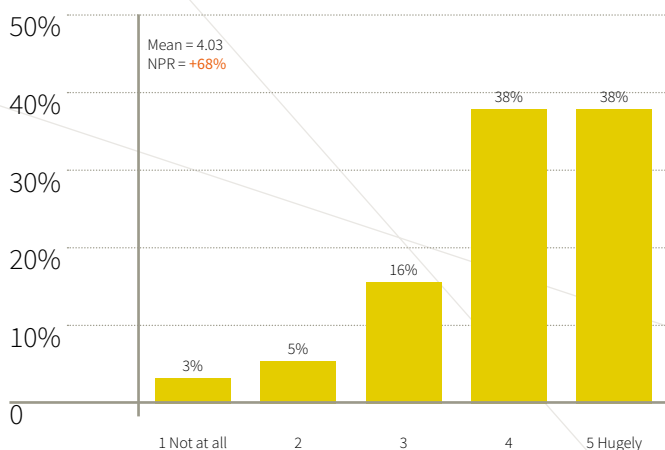
...SEEMS FAIRLY CONSISTENT WITH EVEN TEMPERATURES THROUGHOUT THE HOME.

...INCREASED THE WARMTH OF HEAT FLOW WITH THE LARGER DUCTS THEY INSTALLED.

...SEEMS TO BE MORE EFFICIENT AND HEATS UP THE HOUSE MORE QUICKLY.

”

Figure 1: To what extent has your new room heating appliance helped you to improve comfort and keep your house warm during winter and/or cool in summer? (n=654)



¹ Defined here a score of 4 or 5 on the 5-point Likert scale



IMPROVED PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Scheme participants were also impressed with the impact of new appliances on improved physical or mental health – with 49% saying the new appliances had made a substantial improvement and one out of five believing it had made a "huge" difference. Of those reporting improvements, 18% were public housing tenants, 37% were other low-income, priority households and 46% were not priority households.

Those who had experienced health benefits were asked to explain them. While some were simply happy to be warmer, for others the installation had impacted greatly on their physical and mental health:

“

...MY SON HAS ASTHMA AND IT WAS BAD IN WINTER. I WOULD SAY THIS HAS IMPROVED. BECAUSE THE COST IS CHEAPER, WE CAN NOW KEEP THE HOUSE WARMER.

...MY HUSBAND IS QUITE UNWELL, HE STRUGGLES WITH THE HEAT IN SUMMER AND SUFFERS WITH THE COLD IN WINTER. IN SUMMER THE AIR CONDITIONING COOLED HIM DOWN AND SO FAR HE HASN'T BEEN TO HOSPITAL FOR PNEUMONIA THIS WINTER.

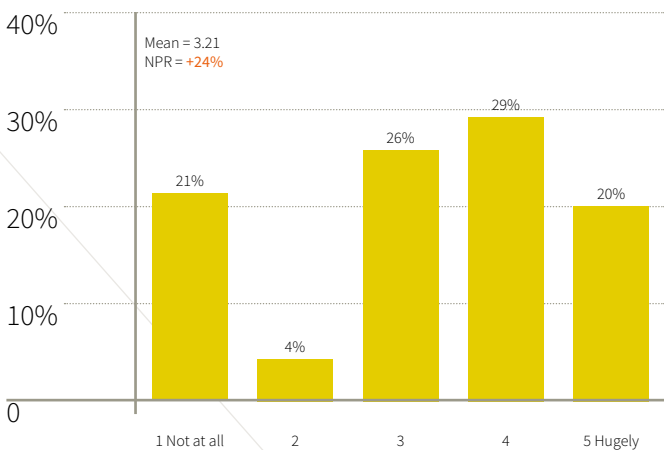
...LESS ILLNESS FOR THE KIDS.

...HAS HELPED WITH MY ARTHRITIS AND ASTHMA, HELPED MY SON WHO IS ADHD WITH ASTHMA AND HAS HELPED WITH HIS MENTAL HEALTH.

”



Figure 2: To what extent has your new room heating appliance helped you to improve physical or mental health of households? (n=368)



IMPACT ON SICK DAYS

There was also evidence that the EEIS space heating and cooling activities had reduced sick days, with 17% of respondents feeling that sick days had been reduced.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The EEIS requires electricity retailers to achieve energy savings in households and small-to-medium businesses. From scheme commencement in 2013 until mid-2019, around 74,000 households and businesses have participated in the Scheme, including close to 19,000 priority low income households.

A comprehensive post-implementation review has been undertaken annually since the scheme commenced, using phone surveys with representative samples of participating households to confirm retailer claims of savings, determine customer satisfaction, identify future energy savings opportunities and areas for improvement.

The 2018 compliance period survey was the first year in which space heating and cooling activities delivered a large proportion of EEIS savings. The multiple benefits of energy efficiency are widely recognised, and include the potential for efficient space heating and cooling to drive improvements to health and wellbeing². To take account of this development, new survey questions were included aiming to learn about any health and wellbeing impacts from energy efficient products.

Further information about activities is available through the [Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme](https://www.energyefficiencyimprovementscheme.gov.au/)³.

2 <https://energyconsumersaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Multiple-Impacts-of-Energy-Efficiency-An-Assessment-Framework.pdf>
 3 <https://www.actsmart.act.gov.au/energy-saving/rebatessubsidies>