

MEDIA RELEASE: 10 March 2004

Weather Conditions A Key Trigger For Asthma And Allergies

A relationship between weather conditions and grass pollen counts has provided critical information for the prevention and management of allergies and asthma within the southeast Queensland region as reported in the latest edition of the International Journal of Biometeorology.

The five-year Brisbane study is the first to investigate the associations between meteorological variables and the incidence of atmospheric grass pollen in a subtropical southern hemisphere environment.

Approximately 15 per cent of the Brisbane population is allergic to pollens. Grass pollens account for 71 per cent of the annual airborne pollen load in Brisbane.

The highest pollen counts occur when the maximum temperature is 28.1oC, making December to April the period for recording the highest readings for airborne grass pollens.

Rainfall was less influential but was shown to remove pollen grains from the atmosphere.

Brett Green, Principal Author and Research Assistant, Woolcock Institute of Medical Research said Understanding pollen dispersal, particularly grass pollen is becoming increasingly important in Australia as the seasonal prevalence of pollen related asthma and hay fever is rising with up to 10 per cent of adults and 30 per cent of children diagnosed with clinical respiratory disease.

The paper is titled Atmospheric Poaceae pollen frequencies and associations with meteorological parameters in Brisbane Australia: A 5 - year record, 1994 1999.

The abstract can be found [here](#)