



Greens a clear choice on climate change and health

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The Greens are a clear leader in policies which address climate change and health, according to a scorecard released by the Climate and Health Alliance today.

The Climate and Health Alliance scored six political parties on their policies for climate change using the results of a survey on its key policy priorities: strong emissions reduction strategies to reduce risks to health from climate change, and developing a national plan to tackle climate change and health and wellbeing.

“There is a distinct lack of insight into the implications of climate change for the health and wellbeing of the population among most political parties,” said CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong.

“Climate change poses serious risks to the health of the Australian community. The international medical journal, *The Lancet*, has described climate change as the biggest threat to global public health this century. And yet, despite mounting evidence, many political parties appear unaware of these risks and continue to be unwilling to commit to the urgent action required to mitigate climate change and adapt to the threats already posed.”

“Absence of genuine emissions reduction commitments will lock us into a world of four degrees or more warming. This will be disastrous for human health and wellbeing,” said CAHA President Dr Liz Hanna.

The Greens scored 6.5 out of 7 on the Climate and Health Alliance scorecard, with the Katter Australia Party scoring one point for advocating a moratorium on coal seam gas projects. The ALP scored ½ a point for their support for the removal of some fossil fuel subsidies, while the Liberal Party, Democratic Labor Party and National Party all scored zero.

“The Greens’ strong commitment to policies to reduce carbon emissions, develop a national plan for climate change and health, establish an agency to oversee policy for climate and environmental health, and a unit to help drive a low carbon transition in healthcare are all welcomed by CAHA members - organisations and individuals from the health sector with a strong interest in protecting and promoting health through action on climate change,” Ms Armstrong said.

Other nations are moving on climate change and health policies, with a *Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act* introduced into the US Congress House of Representatives in May this year. It is time Australian political parties gave climate change the attention it needs.

“All Australians concerned about the impacts of climate change on health should use these results in discussions with their local candidates, and when they vote on September 7,” Ms Armstrong said.

For media enquiries, contact Fiona Armstrong convenor@caha.org.au or 0438900005.

Climate and Health Alliance Members

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