



CLIMATE AND HEALTH ALLIANCE

Newsletter No. 2 - November 2010

Climate and Health Alliance Policy Join CAHA's Working Groups on policy

CAHA members are invited to join any one (or more if you have the appetite!) of a number of Working Groups being established to develop policy papers to support CAHA's stated priorities. This policy development process is an important strategic priority for CAHA as it will help to establish the background to support CAHA's advocacy on each of these priority issues. Each Working Group will be led by a CAHA Executive Committee member (or interested CAHA members) and will develop a short policy paper outlining the evidence to support CAHA's position. CAHA's Priorities include: Health; Research and Development; Energy; Transport; Built Environment; Food and Agriculture; Education; Water; Sustainable Population; Citizen Engagement; Global Justice; and Biodiversity. Contact [CAHA convener](#) Fiona Armstrong for more information or to volunteer for one of the groups.

NEWS

Climate and health must not be overlooked, warn medical journals

In the lead up to the next round of international climate talks, three leading international journals have published a call for health professionals "to ensure that the links between climate policy and health policy are known and fully taken into account in all climate change

Climate and Health Alliance goes to Canberra

Delegates from the Climate and Health Alliance joined representatives of the Australian Conservation Foundation, The Climate Project, Union Climate Connectors and the Australian Youth Climate Coalition in Canberra this month to lobby for the introduction of a carbon price. Around thirty people visited around 30 MPs and Senators, outlining the case for a price on carbon to replace Australia's ageing and high emitting fossil fuelled power generation infrastructure. A price on carbon would create an economic incentive to encourage the development and deployment of clean renewable energy.

The Climate and Health Alliance produced a briefing paper for delegates and parliamentarians on the health implications of climate change (available [here](#)). CAHA delegates included Erica Bell from Australian Rural Health Education Network (ARHEN), Tania Hamzar from Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA), Giles Rohan from Doctors for the Environment,

negotiations."

Writing in the *Lancet*, the *British Medical Journal*, and the *Finnish Medical Journal*, researchers Robin Stott and Ian Roberts say health care professionals must work to ensure human health is put at the forefront of climate change negotiations, warning that a failure to radically reduce carbon emissions would mean "global catastrophe".

The article is available free online: see *The Lancet*, Early Online Publication, 18 November 2010.

RESEARCH

Health is a useful 'frame' when talking about climate

A study by researchers at the Centre for Climate Change Communication at George Mason University and American University has found when climate change is presented in a public health context, it is more likely to resonate as a significant issue with people.

When presented in a health context, climate change becomes an issue that is both localised and personal, the researchers say.

"We believe that the public health community has an important perspective to share about climate change, a perspective that potentially offers the public a more salient way to comprehend an issue that has proven deeply difficult for many people to fully comprehend," the authors said.

The health 'frame' therefore provides both a context for personal risk from factors people can relate to (such as asthma, allergies, and infectious diseases) as well as providing a context to talk about the health benefits of climate action, and a vision of a better, healthier future.

The research report can be found [here](#).

Australia (DEA), Michael Moore from PHAA, Elizabeth Reale from the Australian Nursing Federation (ANF), Andrew Philips, and CAHA spokesperson Fiona Armstrong.

The Alliance was welcomed by parliamentarians and other advocacy groups for making a useful contribution to the debate around climate policy on the basis that the health impacts of climate change and health benefits of climate action were little understood, and currently missing from policy discussions around climate change mitigation.

Two briefing papers were produced for the meetings and can be viewed [here](#). Several more meetings with MPs were scheduled as a result of the day.

NEW REPORT

100% clean renewable energy possible for Australia by 2020

A new report from Melbourne consultancy Beyond Zero Emissions and University of Melbourne Energy Institute outlines a blueprint for [how Australia could move to 100% renewable energy by 2020](#). The *Zero Carbon Australia* stationary energy plan shows how, using a mixture of wind and solar thermal technologies (commercially available now) Australia could reduce its dependence of fossil fuels for electricity generation in just a decade. Click [here](#) for more information.

EVENTS

The Royal Commission, emergency management and climate change adaptation Canberra, 25 November 2010

Featuring Professor John Handmer, Convenor of the NCCARF Climate Adaptation Research Network for Emergency Management

When: Thursday 25 November 2010, 11.30am-12.30pm followed by light lunch and networking.

Where: Speakers' Dining Room 3, Old Parliament House, Canberra, ACT.

RSVP: Essential for catering purposes. Please register online at:

<http://handmercanberra.eventbrite.com/>

Designing for sustainable wellbeing February 2011

An international postgraduate conference on engineering, designing and developing the built environment for sustainable wellbeing will be held in Brisbane in February 2011. For more details, visit

www.bee.qut.edu.au/research/events/eddbe/

BOOK LAUNCH

Australia needs 'more than luck' for a sustainable future

Progressive public policy think tank, the Centre for Policy Development, will launch a new book on 26th November which outlines a new vision for Australia in *More Than Luck: Ideas Australia Needs Now*.

Contributing author and CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong writes about 'Shifting from fear to hope' in *More than Luck* - creating a new narrative for climate policy in Australia. For more information, see:

<http://morethanluck.cpd.org.au/>

Website

Visit the [Climate and Health Alliance website](#) for more information about CAHA.

Please note a permanent website is in development.

Climate and Health Alliance mailing list

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