



CLIMATE AND  
HEALTH  
ALLIANCE

## ANNUAL REPORT

2012-13

“Moving to a low carbon economy could  
be the next great public health advance.”

British Medical Journal, The Lancet, and the Finnish Medical Journal



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## REPORT FROM CAHA PRESIDENT: Dr Liz Hanna



The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) was established in 2010 as an alliance of health sector stakeholders who wished to see the health threats arising from climate change and ecological degradation addressed through prompt policy action.

CAHA is a founding member of the Global Climate and Health Alliance, and the only national alliance on climate and health to date.

Unheralded extreme weather events are wreaking havoc across the globe, and Australia's particular vulnerability to these poses diverse health threats from heat extremes, and bushfires, droughts, storms and floods.

The Australian health sector is becoming increasingly alarmed at the clear indications of anthropogenic interference with the climate and is prepared to lend their collective voice to calls for action to protect human health and reduce human suffering.

The Alliance provides an avenue for health researchers, practitioners, and health NGOs to collaborate in health advocacy, to share information and further engage the health sector, community and policy makers to adopt pro- health policies.

The following sections outline the range of activities and achievements pursuant to this end undertaken by CAHA in the past year.

On behalf of CAHA, I am pleased to present this 2013 Annual Report. The extensive body of work is in large part, a testimony to the indefatigable efforts of the CAHA Convenor, Fiona Armstrong, who performs these on a volunteer basis. I take this opportunity to thank Fiona, as we applaud her commitment to CAHA, and to a better world.

I also congratulate the many members who devote their time and energies to serve the Alliance objectives in promoting the health and wellbeing of Australia through policies supporting healthy ecosystems and a low carbon economy.



## REPORT FROM CAHA CONVENOR: Fiona Armstrong



The last year has been another amazing year in the development of CAHA's advocacy and outreach efforts.

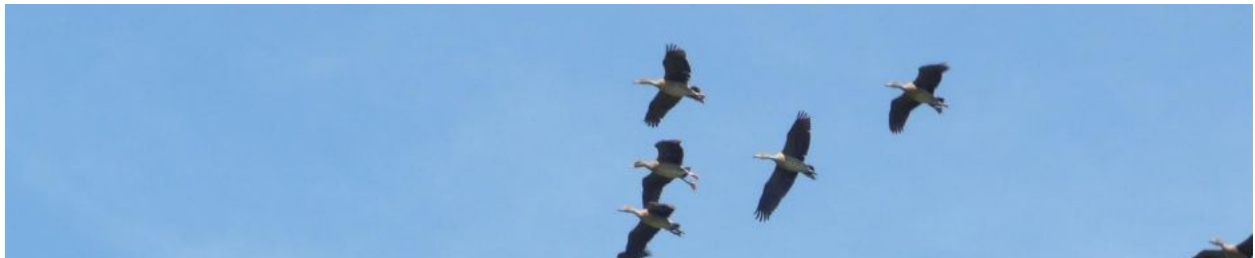
We have further strengthened our Alliance with some great networking at key events, and used our collective position on key issues around climate and energy and health to advance our advocacy on key policy issues such as Australia's national emissions reduction targets, the national renewable energy target, regulation around air pollution and coal seam gas mining and exploration and national energy policy more broadly.

CAHA has further developed its national and international reputation for leading a dynamic agenda of advocacy on climate and health issues underscored by a high level of professionalism and scientific rigour.

The contribution of the Committee of Management, Members and the Expert Advisory Committee in supporting this work has been extraordinarily generous and valuable, since it is the participation of a diverse range of disciplines and stakeholder groups that provides rich perspectives that contribute to the integrity of the organisation's work and its reputation.

I would like to acknowledge the leadership from CAHA's Committee of Management in particular; whose guidance and support provides such a solid foundation for this work, and whose passion and commitment to change is courageous and inspiring.

Much has been accomplished and there is much more to do – I believe CAHA's work is contributing to a shift in the way in which the links between environment, climate and health are viewed, and in time, will help deliver the change in policy and societal behaviour that is needed to reflect those fundamental connections.



## GOVERNANCE

The CAHA COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT (CoM) 2012-13 includes:



Dr Liz Hanna, CAHA President (Australian College of Nursing)



Fiona Armstrong, CAHA Convenor



Associate Professor Erica Bell, CAHA Vice-President (Australian Rural Health Education Network)



Dr Brad Farrant (Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth)



Dr Bret Hart (Alliance for Future Health)



Michael Moore (Public Health Association of Australia)



Kristine Olaris (Women's Health East)



Elizabeth Reale (Australian Nursing Federation)



Julia Stewart (CRANAp/us)



Dr Elizabeth Haworth (Friends of CAHA)



Stephen Pannell (Australian Medical Students Association)

## ONGOING GOVERNANCE: COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2013-14

The Climate and Health Alliance continues its stable governance with six Committee of Management members re-elected to the CAHA Committee of Management in November 2013, so we are pleased to welcome back:

- Erica Bell (Australian Rural Health Education Network)
- Bret Hart (Alliance for Future Health)
- Kristine Olaris (North Yarra Community Health)
- Liz Hanna (Australian College of Nursing)
- Elizabeth Haworth (Friends of CAHA)
- Fiona Armstrong (CAHA Convenor)

CAHA farewelled Michael Moore from the Public Health Association of Australia, Kristine Olaris from Women's Health East, Elizabeth Reale from Australian Nursing Federation, Julia Stewart from CRANaplus, and Stephen Pannell from Australian Medical Students Association from the Committee of Management. Michael and Kristine and Elizabeth have all been on the Committee of Management since CAHA's inception in 2010, and their guidance and support for the organisation played a key role in establishing its firm foundations and provided sound governance during that critical period. Julia's contributions have been important and valuable. Stephen played a key role in connecting CAHA members with the vibrant community of medical students in Australia. CAHA welcomes new Committee of Management members Peter Sainsbury (Public Health Association of Australia) and Alice McGushin (Australian Medical Students Association) to the group.

## EXPERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CAHA's Expert Advisory Committee is a highly credentialed group of experts who provide a hugely valuable service in support of CAHA in sharing their expertise to ensure CAHA public statements and published papers are highly credible and are based on the best available scientific literature and evidence.

### The CAHA Expert Advisory Committee comprises:

- Associate Professor Erica Bell, University Department of Rural Health, University of Tasmania
- Professor David Karoly, Federation Fellow in the School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne
- Professor Stephan Lewandowsky, School of Psychology, University of Western Australia
- Dr Peter Tait, Convenor, Ecology and Environment Special Interest Group, Public Health Association of Australia
- Associate Professor Grant Blashki, Nossal Institute for Global Health
- Professor Anthony Capon, Director, International Institute of Global Health, United Nations University
- Professor Simon Chapman, Professor of Public Health, University of Sydney
- Dr Susie Burke, Public Interest, Environment & Disaster Response, Australian Psychological Society
- Professor Colin Butler, ARC Future Fellow, Public Health, University of Canberra
- Professor Garry Egger, School of Health & Human Sciences, Southern Cross University

All members of the expert advisory committee offer unique and informed perspectives on climate and health issues and CAHA is grateful for their willingness to contribute.

## MEMBERS

There are twenty seven organisations representing health care professionals from a range of disciplines, health care service providers, institutions, academics, researchers and consumers that are members of the Climate and Health Alliance.



These include:

Alliance for Future Health  
Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW)  
Australian College of Nursing (ACN)  
Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)  
Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA)  
Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA)  
Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI)  
Australian Research Alliance of Children and Youth (ARACY)  
Australian Women's Health Network (AWHN)  
Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA)  
Australian Nursing Federation (ANF)  
Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA)  
Australian Psychological Society (APS)  
Australian Rural Health Education Network (ARHEN)  
CRANAp<sub>lus</sub>  
Doctors Reform Society (DRS)  
Friends of CAHA  
Health Consumers' Network (Qld)  
Health Issues Centre (HIC)  
Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA)  
North Yarra Community Health (NYCH)  
Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH)  
Women's Health East (WHE)  
Women's Health in the North (WHIN)  
World Vision

The organisation *Friends of CAHA* is for individual members. Its members include senior academics and health professionals with considerable expertise in environmental health and climate and health issues.

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Climate and Health Alliance's Statement of Purpose and Objectives are:

### Aim

The Alliance's aim is the restoration of a healthy and ecologically sustainable natural environment for all species, including humans.

### Purpose

The Alliance's purpose is to promote the protection of the natural environment to enhance sustainability and health and wellbeing for all species, including humans.

### Objectives

In particular, the Alliance will:

- **Advocate** for effective public policy and community responses to promote a healthy ecology and society through the prevention of environmental degradation, including from **climate change** and from threats to air and water and soil, in order to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of the community and of biodiversity upon which humans depend;
- **Collaborate** with others to identify and remove structural barriers to the protection of a healthy environment, including effective responses to **climate change** and the preservation of biodiversity; and to support the development of environmentally responsible and sustainable practices in health care;
- **Engage and inform** health professionals, policy makers, and the community through the provision of information and education about the importance of environmental protection for health and wellbeing, including with regard to the risks from **climate change** and in relation to appropriate responses to protect and promote ecosystem and human health;
- **Share** information and resources about health and the natural environment and **climate issues** through a network of individuals and organisations;
- **Establish and maintain** a public fund to be called **Healthy Futures Fund** for the specific purpose of supporting the environmental objects/purposes of the Climate and Health Alliance.\*

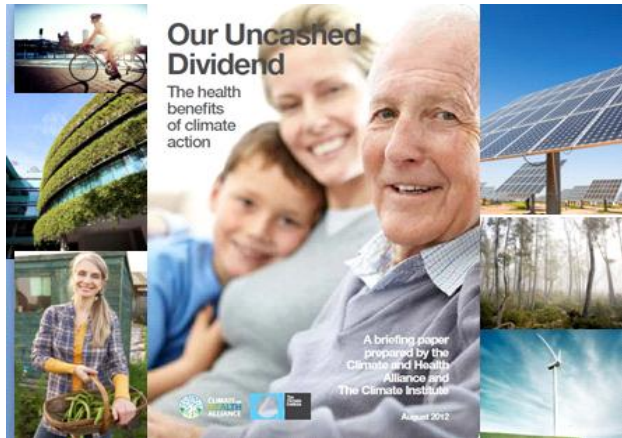
\*CAHA is still waiting to be granted tax deductible status following an application to join the Register of Environmental Organisations in 2011. This fund is established to receive tax deductible donations:



## PUBLICATIONS

### “Our Uncashed Dividend: The Health Benefits of Climate Action”

The promotion of CAHA's 2012 joint publication with The Climate Institute “*Our Uncashed Dividend: The Health Benefits of Climate Action*” continued throughout 2012-13.



Presentations on the report were given to the **Population Health Congress** in September 2012; to a forum at the **Sustainable Living Festival**; and at the National **Australian Climate Action Summit** in 2013.

The report featured strongly in an address by The Climate Institute Chair Mark Wootten to Tony McMichael's Festschrift in November 2012, and is regularly cited in CAHA submissions on policy issues.

*Our Uncashed Dividend* also informed the development of the first ever submission by the Australian Government on health to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in October 2012. Following a meeting with CAHA re *Our Uncashed Dividend*, the Australian Government made a submission to Nairobi Work Program proposing “further work understand the physical and psychological impacts of climate change on individual and community health” and suggesting that this work could “draw on the experience of health sector workers, as a useful resource in understanding and addressing the climate change impacts on health”. A link to the Australian Government submission is available [here](#).

### Health Implications of Energy Policy

CAHA led the development of this joint Briefing Paper on behalf of CAHA and other Health and Energy Policy Roundtable partners: Public Health Association of Australia, National Rural Health Alliance, Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association and National Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility – Human Health Network.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The Climate and Health Alliance has a strategic partnership with the international non government organisation, Health Care Without Harm (HCWH).



HCWH is an international coalition with over 483 member organizations in 53 countries, working to transform the health care sector worldwide so that it is ecologically sustainable and no longer a source of harm to public health and the environment.

HCWH and CAHA work together to: raise awareness about the health effects of climate change and the health benefits of climate action; mobilise the health sector to respond effectively to climate change; and promote sustainable practices in health care to reduce the sector's environmental footprint.

This partnership provides support for CAHA to promote programs such as the [Global Green and Healthy Hospitals](#) (GGHH) as well for its advocacy for climate action to protect health, and has supported some of CAHA's work on health and energy policy in 2013.

CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong attended the HCWH global team meeting in California in October 2013 to discuss shared strategic projects on climate and health, energy and health and sustainable healthcare.

## NETWORKS AND ALLIANCES

CAHA is a member of a number of networks and alliances that share environmental, climate and health concerns.

In 2012-13, CAHA has been active in the following networks and partnerships:

**Climate Action Network Australia:** The Climate and Health Alliance is a member of the Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) - a network of regional, state and national environmental, community development, and research groups and is the Australian arm of Climate Action Network International. Membership of CANA allows the Climate and Health Alliance to share its expertise on climate and health issues, and help inform and influence the advocacy agenda of other groups to highlight the implications for human health from climate change and the health benefits of climate action.

CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong, Dr Susie Burke from Australian Psychological Society and Sue Cooke from Friends of CAHA attended the 2013 CANA Conference in Melbourne.

**Global Climate and Health Alliance:** The Climate and Health Alliance is a founding member of the Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA), established following the Global Climate and Health Summit in Durban in December 2011.



The Alliance consists of health organisations from around the world united by a shared vision for a sustainable future.

Specifically Alliance members work together to:

- Ensure health impacts are integrated into global, national and local responses to climate change
- Encourage the health sector to mitigate and adapt for climate change

In December 2012, CAHA led the development of the Doha Declaration for Climate Health and Wellbeing, released during the UNFCCC's 18th Conference of the Parties (COP18). Over 80 organisations added their signatures or endorsement to the Declaration, which is reproduced in full in Appendix A.

The GCHA has established a website: <http://www.climateandhealthalliance.org/>. In 2013, GCHA, with the support of the World Health Organisation, organised the second Global Climate and Health Summit held in Warsaw in Poland in November 2013, held in parallel with COP19, the annual meeting of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

CAHA President Dr Liz Hanna was a keynote speaker at the Summit, which received [international media coverage](#).

## EVENTS

### Roundtable on the Health Implications of Energy Policy

In February 2013, the Climate and Health Alliance organised and hosted a Health Implications of Energy Policy Roundtable along with co-hosts the Climate Change Health Research Network (NCCARF-ARN), Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA), and Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA).

The Roundtable was attended by over 40 people, including the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer Professor Chris Baggoley, and representatives from Royal Australian College of GPs, Australian Nursing Federation, Australian Physiotherapy Association, Doctors for the Environment Australia, Department of Health and Ageing, Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, The Sunrise Project and Lock the Gate Alliance.

Participants heard from Professor Colin Butler on the contribution of fossil fuels to climate change and the implications for health; from Associate Professor Linda Selvey on the health risks associated with coal mining, transportation and combustion; from Dr Mariann Lloyd Smith on the health risks from coal seam gas exploration and extraction; and from Professor Mark Diesendorf on the very real and achievable possibility of a 100% renewable energy electricity sector for Australia.

A Workshop following the Roundtable explored how the health sector and the health care community can respond to these risks. There was broad agreement that the risks to human health are being overlooked in the development of energy policy in Australia and that mining and fossil fuel companies exert an unhealthy influence on the development of energy policy, leading to inadequate checks and balances to ensure people's health is protected.

A Joint Statement (see full version at Appendix B) issued after the Workshop on behalf of over 70 health groups (including this within the umbrella groups of the National Rural Health Alliance and Climate and Health Alliance) and subsequently signed by several more, stated:

*"The overriding concern is that climate change is being driven by energy choices and minerals policies that privilege and prioritise the extraction and combustion of fossil fuels over safer, healthier, lower emissions, renewable energy resources.*

*"The local health impacts from coal mining, transportation and combustion are also a significant concern, and communities living in proximity to these activities are experiencing adverse social impacts, such as loss of amenity, displacement, and loss of social capital as well as facing increased risks of respiratory disease, heart disease, and lung cancer.*

*"The rapid expansion of the fossil fuel (coal and unconventional gas) industries in Australia demands these issues be urgently addressed."*

The next steps following the Roundtable include the development of a joint Position Paper to outline the collective position of the groups in relation to energy and minerals policy, and the development of a campaign featuring health professionals calling for clean safe healthy renewable energy systems for Australia and highlighting the risks from current systems, in particular the risks to health from coal and coal seam gas.

The Joint Statement was signed by the lead groups, joined by Cancer Council Australia, Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY), National Toxics Network (NTN), Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA), and New South Wales Nurses and Midwives Association (NSWNMA). Later signatories to the Joint Statement included Services for Rural and Remote Health (SARRAH), Australian Medical Students Association of Australia (AMSA), Australian College of Nursing (ACN), Australian Nursing Federation (ANF), and Doctors for the Environment, Australia.



An evaluation of the experience of participants at the Health and Energy Roundtable revealed positive responses:

- 95% of respondents found the pre-reading material helpful;
- 90% said the Roundtable either met or exceeded their expectations;
- 90% found the presentations informative
- 80% said the /workshop either met or exceeded their expectations; and
- 80% found the Workshop presentations informative and 20% found them 'very informative'.

## Greening the Health Sector Policy Think Tank: AHHA and CAHA

CAHA, together with our member the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, has taken some important steps towards realizing its commitment to reducing the environmental footprint of the healthcare sector with our joint '**Greening the Health Sector Policy Think Tank**' in Melbourne on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

This was held in collaboration with Global Green and Healthy Hospitals and AHHA's research organisation, the Deeble Institute.



The Think Tank was well attended and featured keynote presentations from Dr Blair Sadler from the US Healthier Hospitals Initiative and Josh Karliner from Health Care Without Harm on the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network.

A report on the blog Croakey using the Twitter feed from the event can be found here. A full report is being developed.

This is part of the work CAHA continues to do with our international partner, Health Care Without Harm, and national partner, Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, in promoting the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network, and helping build the global network of hospitals and healthcare settings working together to become healthy low carbon sustainable operations.

CAHA has been responsible for involving the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association as a founding partner in the GGHH network and promoting the network to individual hospital systems. Austin Health (Melbourne), Western Health (Victoria), Mater (Brisbane), Kooverup Regional Health Service (Victoria), and Hepburn Health Service are all members of the network and Austin, Western and Kooverup were all involved in the 2013 Think Tank. Austin, Western, Mater and Middlemore Health in Auckland NZ are also involved in the pilot phase of GGHH Connect, the online platform developed to support the global network.

CAHA's Convenor, Fiona Armstrong, and AHHA Policy Director Andrew McAuliffe are both involved in the pilot of GGHH Connect to support member engagement. The project has an international secretariat with an international coordinator and proposes to establish regional secretariats in Asia (Manila), Latin America (Buenos Aires), Europe (Brussels) in 2014. HCWH also aim to support at least one staff person in each country where the network is growing vibrantly.

## Forum on Climate and Health



The Climate and Health Alliance organised a Forum on Climate and Health to discuss the Research, Policy and Advocacy Agenda needed to really make progress on protecting health from climate change in Melbourne in November.

The Forum heard from some of Australia's leading health and medical researchers, policy experts and public health leaders. The Forum evoked a strong response from participants who released a Joint Statement declaring climate change an issue of national and global significance - and calling on the Australia Government to develop a national strategy to respond to the serious and increasing health risks from climate change.

The Joint Statement (see Appendix C) is signed by participants calling for individuals, organisations, communities, businesses and governments to shift investment away from fossil fuels, and for stronger action on climate change and greater investment in environmental protection.

## PROJECTS

### Health and Energy Policy

As part of its work on energy policy, the Climate and Health Alliance continues to engage with health groups and the health sector through sharing materials and resources on the contribution of fossil fuels such as coal and gas to climate change and encouraging organisations and individuals to participate in campaigns.

Several CAHA members and representatives attended a national coal and gas meeting in New South Wales in May to engage with individuals and communities campaigning against coal and gas projects.

Two health workshops were offered at this meeting for campaigners seeking to campaign on health grounds.

CAHA has facilitated the participation of individual health and medical researchers and health leaders in signing an open letter (developed by [Market Forces](#)) to Australia's four largest banks urging them to not to invest in coal and gas projects and to sell off existing stakes in coal and gas projects.

CAHA attended a Roundtable meeting with Bill McKibben when he was in Australia and will support the engagement of key health and medical leaders and stakeholders in the 350.org fossil fuel divestment campaign.

Other activities included CAHA's President Dr Liz Hanna signing a statement about coal exports, "[It's time to talk about coal](#)", published in the national newspaper the *Financial Review*, calling for cessation of the planned expansion of coal exports from Australia.



Following the Roundtable on the Health Implications of Energy Policy, CAHA has been leading the development of a **Position Paper on Health and Energy Choices** on behalf of the collaboration of groups that signed the Joint Statement.

This will be released in early 2014.

A [draft website](#) has been developed to support a [Clean Energy for Health campaign](#), as proposed at the Roundtable.

This is proposed to support a campaign featuring health professionals calling for clean safe healthy renewable energy systems for Australia and highlighting the risks from coal and coal seam gas.

Funding permitting, this will be further developed with partners in 2014, following the release of the Position Paper, to build support for and awareness of the need to shift to cleaner energy systems as a health measure.



## The Human Cost of Power



The Climate and Health Alliance has partnered with the Public Health Association of Australia in a project to produce a short film on the health implications of coal and gas.

The video is directed by award winning science journalist Alexandra de Blas and produced by CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong.

It features four leading public and environmental health experts: [Dr George Crisp](#), GP and WA Chair Doctors for the Environment, Australia; [Associate Professor Linda Selvey](#), School of Public Health, Curtin University; [Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri](#), Menzies Centre for Health Policy, University of Sydney; and [Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith](#), Senior Advisor, National Toxics Network.

The film will be used to elevate the seriousness of the health impacts associated with coal and coal seam gas in the minds of decision makers, health professionals, educators, and the wider community in Australia. It is available online, and is being provided to university faculties of public health, used at forums in communities affected by coal and coal seam gas projects, and distributed widely using social media. This will be an important contribution to raising public awareness of the topic in Australia and internationally.

The film was launched on 18 September at the University of Melbourne, and screened at an event hosted by the Medical School at the University of Notre Dame on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

The film has screened internationally several times, having featured at the October 2013 [Health Impact Assessment Conference in Geneva](#); the [Global Climate and Health Summit](#) in Warsaw held in parallel with COP19; and will screen in competition at the [Think Forward Film Festival](#) in Venice in December 2013.

There is a strong demand for the film nationally with requests to screen coming from communities across Australia – in coal and gas affected communities in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria, and South Australia.

The film has been viewed over 1000 times already on the film director's YouTube channel. Two versions of the film (5 minutes and 15 minutes) are now both available on the [Climate and Health Alliance You Tube channel](#) here:  
<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi8Lbuff5U-s1RbPMi0Ms0Q>

## Sustainable Healthcare: Global Green and Healthy Hospitals

CAHA continues to work with our international partner, Health Care Without Harm, and national partner, Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, to promote the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network, and to help build the global network of hospitals and healthcare settings working together to become healthy low carbon sustainable operations.



Both CAHA and AHHA, along with three hospitals from Australia and New Zealand are participating in a pilot project supported by international communications technology giant, CISCO, to develop a new online digital communications platform, *GGHH Connect*.

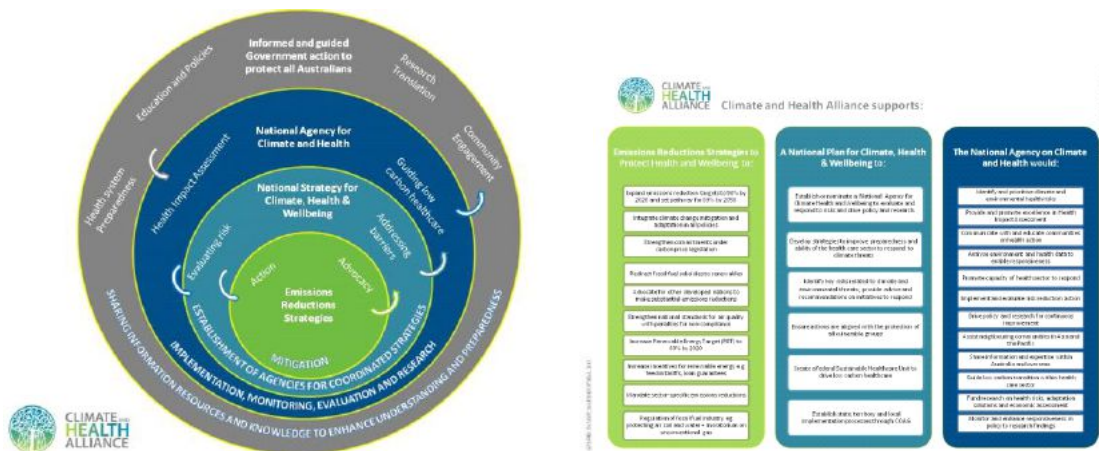
This platform has been developed for the global network of green and healthy hospitals to talk to one another, share their progress towards their goals, and seek support and guidance from experts and from one another.

It will be made available to all members of the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Network in 2014.

# CAMPAIGNS

## Federal election 2013

The federal election saw a vigorous and innovative campaign emerge out of CAHA – with a strong platform of advocacy for emissions reductions and the development of a national plan for climate and health. (Thanks to Melissa Haswell and Marcia Grand Ortega for the graphics).



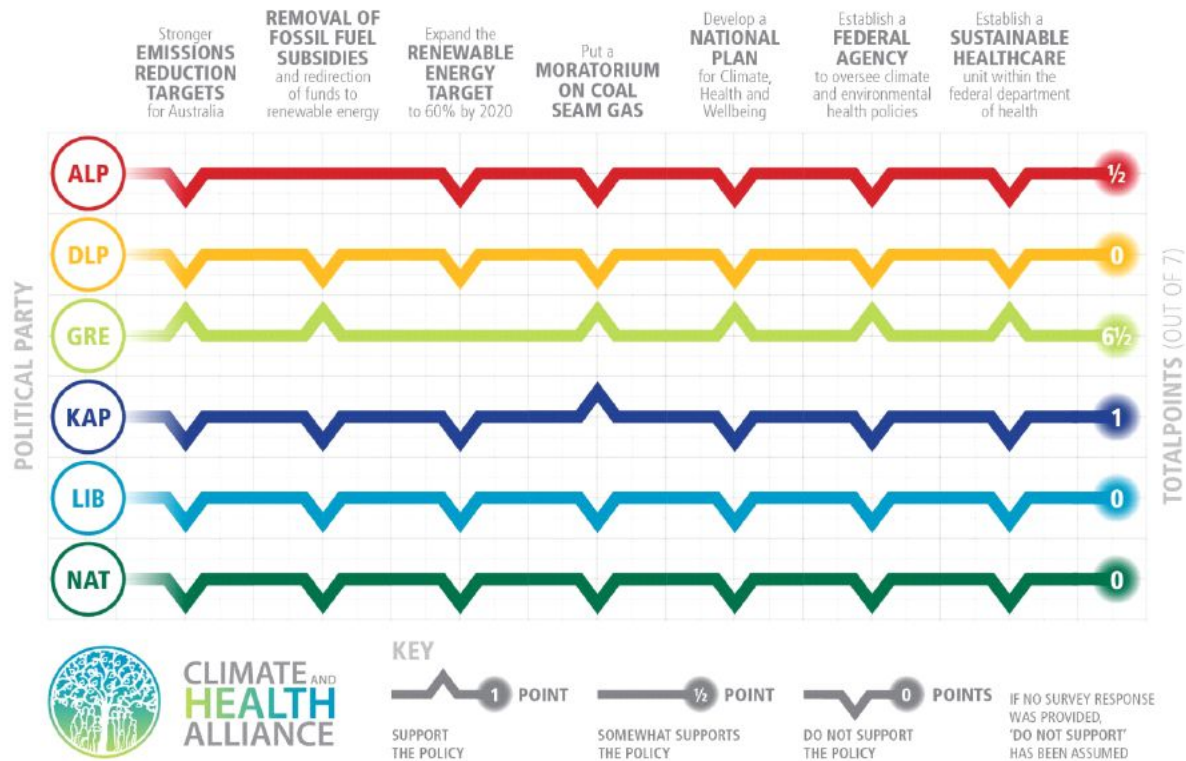
A striking scorecard (thanks to [Design Good](#)) captured the outcomes of political commitments to CAHA key policy 'asks':

- Strong emissions reductions of 50% by 2020 and 80% by 2050
- Expansion of the Renewable Energy Target (RET) to 60% by 2020
- Removal of fossil fuel subsidies and redirection of funds towards renewables
- Development of a national plan for climate and health
- Establishment of a federal agency to lead research and policy
- Establishment of a sustainable healthcare unit in federal health department
- A moratorium on unconventional gas exploration and extraction

This revealed a poor response from all political parties but one on policy initiatives considered to be key to the protecting and promotion of health. The Greens were the only party to score higher than 1½ out of a possible 7, with the Katter Party receiving this score due to their commitment to a moratorium on coal seam gas.

A survey of federal politicians received a small volume of responses – perhaps reflecting the poor understanding of and commitment to the issue of climate change and health.

Climate change is a major threat to the health of people in Australia and around the world, but which political parties support policies to protect health from climate change? We analysed the policies of the main political parties in Australia – and here are the results.



Vote for good health and a safe climate at this year's federal election.

Find out more at [www.caha.org.au/campaigns/federal-election-2013](http://www.caha.org.au/campaigns/federal-election-2013)

Want to see Australia develop a National Plan for Climate and Health?

Send a letter to your MP today: [www.climateandhealth.good.do](http://www.climateandhealth.good.do)

The CAHA campaign for a national plan for climate and health began and continues with [an online letter to political candidates and now elected politicians](#), where people can send a letter to their local political representatives, asking them to commit to a national strategy for climate and health. Over 100 letters have been sent so far, and the campaign will continue as CAHA seeks to influence the policy agenda of the new Parliament in recognising the importance of climate action to protect health.

Some positive outcomes of this advocacy include commitments from The Greens for a national strategy on climate and health and in particular an announcement of a policy for a sustainable healthcare unit at the federal level – one of the key asks in the CAHA election platform.

The Australian Medical Association are now also calling for a national strategy for climate and health, highlighting the importance of and opportunities for influencing the agenda of other advocates in support of CAHA priorities.

## Protecting our children from climate change

Current Australian and international carbon reduction commitments are nowhere near enough to protect our children, grandchildren and future generations from dangerous climate change.

This campaign, initiated by CAHA Committee of Management member, Dr Brad Farrant, seeks to encourage all Australians to speak up in defence of children to protect them from dangerous climate change.

The campaign centres around a Statement of Commitment and an open letter to child advocates and researchers, community organisations, businesses and the Australian public (see Appendix D).

The Statement can be found here: <http://caha.org.au/campaigns/protect-our-children/>



## Paid to Pollute

Building on CAHA's participation in the international campaign to end fossil fuel subsidies <http://endfossilfuelsubsidies.org/why/> launched during the Rio + 20 Earth Summit last year, CAHA has joined as a partner to an Australian campaign to remove fossil fuel subsidies in the upcoming federal budget.

The campaign, Paid to Pollute [paidtopollute.org.au](http://paidtopollute.org.au) highlights the \$10 billion paid each year to subsidise fossil fuels in Australia in the form of subsidies, cash, tax breaks and infrastructure to big polluters, and calls for this to stop.

## PRESENTATIONS / CONFERENCES

CAHA receives frequent invitations to speak at public forums, conferences, seminars, and meetings.

This year, CAHA has given the following presentations:

CAHA President Dr Liz Hanna gave multiple presentations and media interviews, including:

- Keynote address at the Global Climate and Health Summit held in parallel with COP19 in Warsaw, Poland, in November
- Presentation to the Greenhouse Conference in Adelaide in October 2013 on health risks associated with heat in a warming climate
- Keynote address to Environmental Health Australia 38th National Conference, September in Perth on the Critical Decade
- Guest lectures on Climate and Health to students at the University of Canberra,
- Convened and lectured the Climate and Health module for the Masters in Climate Change program at ANU
- Presentation to the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) Conference in Sydney in June on health risks and adaptation responses required to protect Australia's heat exposed workforce
- Climate Action Summit in Sydney in June, co-presented with Dr Elizabeth Haworth, and Associate Professor Erica Bell
- Invited to provide a briefing to the Senate Inquiry into recent trends in and preparedness for extreme weather events in April in Canberra
- Invited presentation to NCCARF at ANU in February on current research in climate and health in Australia

CAHA Board member Kristine Olaris gave an invited presentation to the [Australian Youth Climate Coalition Powershift conference at Monash University](#) in July.

CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong gave invited these presentations:

- Advocacy in Action workshop at the [Public Health Association national conference](#) – September 2013
- Presentation and panel discussion on coal and health national coal and gas gathering [Beyond Coal and Gas: Our Land, Our Water, Our Future](#) - May 2013
- Keynote address to the [Australian Women's Health Network national conference](#) - May 2013
- Invited lecture to nursing, health promotion and public health students at Deakin University - 15 May 2013
- A lecture on advocacy for policy to public health students at Latrobe University - 7 May 2013

- Seminar on Health and Environmental Sustainability and Health, Australian Nurses Federation Victorian branch - 27 March 2013
- Lecture to Monash University global health students group, Ignite, on the role of health professionals in advocating for climate action - 22 March 2013
- Invited presentation on Climate and Health to National Rural Health Alliance Councilfest - 23 November 2013
- Presentation on Climate Change and Health to Bayside Climate Action Group in Melbourne - 26 November.

CAHA worked with the organisers of the [Australian Community Climate Action Summit](#) for grassroots community climate activists in Sydney in June to highlight health as a theme for the event, resulting in three plenary presentations on health and three workshops on health over the two day summit.



CAHA President Dr Liz Hanna, Vice President Associate Professor Erica Bell, Committee of Management member Dr Elizabeth Haworth, Expert Advisory Committee member Professor Colin Butler, and CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong all spoke at the event.

Links to presentations can be found here: <http://climatesummit.org.au/2013-summit/2013-program/>

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CAHA has continues to reach out to the community to raise awareness about the health effects of climate change and the health benefits of climate action.

CAHA was involved in several initiatives at the 2013 Melbourne Sustainable Living Festival, bringing a strong emphasis on human health to this highly visible and well attended event.

CAHA organised and hosted:

- *The Heat is On* - a forum on heatwaves and health featuring CAHA President Dr Liz Hanna, Professor David Karoly, and AMA Vic Vice President Dr Tony Bartone



- *Our Uncashed Dividend* on CAHA and The Climate Institute's 2012 report on the health benefits of climate action.
- *The Climate and Health Clinic*, offering personalised climate and health 'checks' with volunteer health promoters helping people develop their own 'prescription' that will help them reduce emissions and improve their own and population health at the same time.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### NEWSLETTER

CAHA produces a regular newsletter which covers the latest climate and health and sustainable healthcare news as well as report on what CAHA is doing. The newsletter now has over 1,000 subscribers.





## MEDIA

CAHA produces regular media releases. These include:

- [Climate change to cause significant loss of life: health research and policy forum](#) - 15 November 2013
- [Australian film to carry climate message to Europe, while Government refuses to attend climate talks](#) - 13 November 2013
- [IPCC climate science report confirms Australia cannot afford to delay: health experts](#) - 30 September 2013
- [Coal and gas harming health and driving climate change: health experts](#) - 18 September 2013
- [Health sector thinking green and global for better health](#) - 30 August 2013
- [RET, adaptation research and Clean Air Act glimmers of hope in 'climate-lite' campaign](#) - 29 August 2013
- [Greens a clear choice on climate change and health](#) - 12 August 2013
- [Health groups put climate first in election poll](#) - 5 August 2013
- [End the age of coal](#) - 29 June 2013
- [Coal production putting lives at risk](#) - 16 April 2013
- [Lives increasingly at risk from 'angry climate'](#) - 4 March 2013
- [Health groups call for urgent action to address health risks from coal and coal seam gas](#) - 12 February 2013

## SOCIAL MEDIA

CAHA has a growing presence on social media with [its Twitter account @healthy\\_climate](#) with over 800 followers, and messages regularly re-tweeted by others. The CAHA social media accounts have a high profile rating on the social media rating website, Klout, with a Klout score of 53, equivalent to high profile social influencers.

CAHA has 400 people signed up for updates to its Facebook page and regularly communicates with hundreds of people via its Facebook networks.

Most popular Facebook posts included:

- The CAHA Federal Election Scorecard  
<https://www.facebook.com/climateandhealthalliance/posts/503695966371535>  
(seen by 1292 people)
- Announcing the email your MP campaign, asking for a National Strategy on Climate and Health  
<https://www.facebook.com/climateandhealthalliance/posts/494176200656845>  
(seen by 694 people)
- The launch of the film, The Human Cost of Power in Melbourne  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/574059205991611/> (seen by 682 people)

## OPINION

CAHA representatives have had the following opinion pieces published in mainstream or online media:

- [It's time for the health sector to step up on climate](#) - 22 October 2013 by Fiona Armstrong
- [Australian media failures promote climate policy inaction](#) - 18 June 2013 by CAHA Board member Dr [Brad Farrant](#) along with [David Holmes](#) and [Mark G Edwards](#)
- [Your MP won't act on climate change? Ask the tough questions](#) - 5 June 2013 by [Brad Farrant](#) and [Mark G Edwards](#)
- [Health groups seek urgent action on climate. But where is the policy response?](#) - 14 August 2013 by Fiona Armstrong
- [Coal and csg rush clashes with health and climate obligations](#) - 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013 by Fiona Armstrong
- [Health ministers' attacks on climate action just sick](#) - 10 August 2012 by CAHA Expert Advisory Committee Member Professor Stephan Lewandowsky and Fiona Armstrong

### THE CONVERSATION

Latest news and research

Home Business + Economy Environment + Energy Health + Medicine Politics + Society Science + Technology

Follow Topics: Health reforming Federal Budget 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing Gonski review Australian endangered species Capitalism Medical myths Fact check

22 April 2013, 6:33am EST

## Your MP doesn't 'believe' in climate change? Ask the tough questions

#### AUTHORS



**Brad Farrant**  
Adjunct Research Fellow in Early Childhood Development at University of Western Australia



**Fiona Armstrong**  
General Editor, School of Public Health and Human Sciences at La Trobe University



**Karen Kang**  
International Child Health Fellow, Centre for International Child Health at University of Melbourne



**Mark G Edwards**  
Associate Professor at University of Western Australia

#### DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Karen Kang is affiliated with Royal Children's Hospital and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

Brad Farrant, Fiona Armstrong, and Mark G Edwards do not work for, consult to, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this article. They also have no relevant affiliations.



Believing climate change isn't happening won't make it go away. Image from [www.abc.net.au](#)

As we head into an election, you'd be justified in asking what your local member is basing their climate change decisions on.

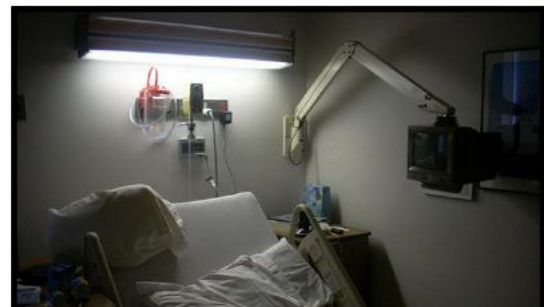
If your MP says 'I don't support policies to prevent dangerous climate change' because 'I don't believe climate change is occurring' or 'I'm not sure climate change is human caused' is this position justifiable simply because it is his or her personal opinion?

Energy Health + Medicine Politics + Society Science + Technology

Boston Marathon Bombing Gonski review Australian endangered species Explainer Medical myths Fact check

10 August 2012, 6:38am EST

## Health ministers' attacks on climate change action are just sick



## WEBSITE

The CAHA website is a much visited resource on climate and health issues. It contributes to CAHA's 'visibility' and enables the organisation to communicate to the media, the public and policy-makers, as well as display and share resources.



Website statistics indicate visits to the site have more than doubled in the last twelve months, with around 5,000 visits per month, with web traffic peaking in April 2013 with the more than 17,000 visits that month.

There were more than 70,000 visits between January and November 2013, 42,000 of which were unique or new visitors to the site. The average length of website visit was eight minutes. The CAHA and TCI report *Our Uncashed Dividend* remains the most popular download, with over 1,000 downloads, followed by the CAHA Position Statement on Health and Wind Turbines (700+).

Around half of CAHA website visitors unsurprisingly came from Australia, followed by Germany, the Russian Federation, the United States and Great Britain.

## CAHA MEMBER SURVEY

**Key findings:** CAHA members and associates report a high level of satisfaction with the organisation and its accomplishments, with 100% of respondents reporting being satisfied, with 65% extremely satisfied and 23.5% moderately satisfied.

**Respondents:** The bulk of survey respondents were from medical (29%) or research (29%) backgrounds, with nursing (12%), psychology (12%), allied health (12%), and health service management (12%) equally represented.

**Achievements:** The most significant achievement of the Alliance was considered to be its **effective collaboration** with other organisations (82.4%). The **development of policy papers** (briefing papers and submissions) was highly regarded with 76.5% nominating this as a significant achievement. Respondents considered the efforts to **highlight both the risks to health from climate change** and the **health benefits of climate action** equivalently significant (71%), while **leadership on health and energy policy** was nominated a significant achievement by 65% of respondents. Efforts to **green the health care sector** were considered significant by 53% of respondents, while 47% considered the development of the short film **The Human Cost of Power** to be a significant achievement.

**Strategic issues:** In nominating the most important strategic issues for the Climate and Health Alliance over the next twelve months, respondents were equally strongly supportive (71%) of: **engaging the health and medical community** to build a larger cohort of champions **to advocate on climate and energy and health**, as well as **communicating** to the general public about the **risks to health from climate change, energy choices and environmental degradation** (71%).

Sixty-five percent nominated **advocacy for a National Strategy for Climate, Health and Wellbeing** as an important strategic priority, while 60% supported **advocacy to transform climate and energy policies** to reduce climate risks and protect the health of local communities.

Working to support the healthcare sector **reduce its environmental footprint** was a strategic priority for 47% of respondents, while 41% support **encouraging environmental groups to advocate on climate and health**. Advocating for **increased international emissions reduction targets** and **joining other groups such as GetUp** in petitioning were equally supported by 295 of respondents.

**Engagement:** The most effective methods of engagement with the health and medical community were considered to be **conferences** (82%), followed by **face to face workshops** (60%). **Newsletters and e-campaigns, and YouTube video** presentations were considered equally effective by 53%, followed by a **national Climate and Health Summit** (41%). Having a **web-based library of resources** was supported by 35%, while 18% considered **webinars** an effective form of health sector engagement.

**International policy:** Participating in the Global Climate and Health Alliance was strongly supported by respondents with 92% seeing this as the best mechanism for influencing international climate policy.

Lobbying the federal government to send a health representative to the global climate talks and advocating for national mitigation and adaptation on climate and health were also supported by 65% of respondents.

Forty-seven percent considered CAHA should send a delegate to the annual Conference of the Parties to the United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).



## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



### CAHA's core strategies for the next twelve months will be:

- **Engaging the sector** – A project working group is preparing to develop educational workshops and a webinar program for members and other health care stakeholders about the health effects of climate change, the health benefits of climate action, and the opportunities that exist for greening the health sector.
- **Greening the sector** – This will involve continuing and building on the work begun to promote sustainability in healthcare initiatives both through engaging with health institutions and organisations with the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network.
- **Advocacy for health in all policies** including in international climate policy, with a particular focus on raising awareness about the implications for health from energy policy i.e. health effects of fossil fuels. This includes engagement with researchers, community, healthcare stakeholders, governments, and advocacy and policy organisations.

## PROPOSED PROJECTS

In order to achieve its strategic aims in a sustainable manner, CAHA will be seeking funding for some or all of the following projects in 2014 to expand its capacity and influence.

These include:

- An evaluation of '**climate literacy**' among health professionals and development of educational resources on environment, climate change and health
- Enhancing **sustainability in healthcare** – outreach to healthcare service providers to promote the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network and resources / toolkits
- A **report card on Australia's response to health risks from climate change** – evaluating the Australian Government response to climate change
- Engaging the community with a digital hub showcasing sustainability and health – '**hereandnow**'
- **Climate, energy and health initiative** – building a community for advocacy; highlighting the risks to health and climate from fossil fuels; researching the impacts
- The **economics of health benefits of emissions reductions** – evaluating the economic gains associated with avoided ill health from cutting emissions in Australia

## FINANCIAL REPORT

This financial report reflects the small budget with which CAHA operates. CAHA's membership fees help to cover some operating costs, including insurance. A small grant from Health Care Without Harm supported some of CAHA's work in 2012-2013. However much of CAHA's operations are funded through pro bono contributions and in-kind support.

### CLIMATE AND HEALTH ALLIANCE INCORPORATED

ABN: 75 260 386 455

#### BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2013

#### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$17,830.70
	\$1,073.73
	\$1,500.30

**TOTAL ASSETS** \$20,404.73

**LIABILITIES** \$1,156.48

**NET ASSETS** \$19,248.25

#### EQUITY

Retained earnings	\$4,523
Current earnings	\$14,725.43

**TOTAL EQUITY** \$19,248.25

## APPENDIX A:

# HEALTH MUST BE CENTRAL TO CLIMATE ACTION

## DOHA DECLARATION, COP18, December 2012

Health and medical organizations from around the world are calling for the protection and promotion of health to be made the one of the central priorities of global and national policy responses to climate change.

The protection of health and welfare is one of the central rationales for reducing emissions in Article One of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Article Four requires all countries to consider the health implications of climate adaptation and mitigation. Yet health is being overlooked in the development of responses to climate change, and its importance undervalued by policymakers, business and the media.

Human health and wellbeing is a basic human right and contributes to economic and social development. It is fundamentally dependent on stable, functioning ecosystems and a healthy biosphere. These foundations for health are at risk from climate change and ecological degradation.

### Health as a driver for mitigation and adaptation

The impact of climate change on health is one of the most significant measures of harm associated with our warming planet. Protecting health is therefore one of the most important motivations for climate action.

Climate change is affecting human health in multiple ways: both direct – through extreme weather events, food and water insecurity and infectious diseases – and indirect – through economic instability, migration and as a driver of conflict.

The risks to health from climate change are very large and will affect all populations, but particularly children, women and poorer people and those in developing nations. Urgent and sustained emissions reductions as well as effective adaptation are needed.

Climate action can deliver many benefits to health worldwide. Reducing fossil fuel consumption simultaneously improves air quality and improves public health. Shifting to cleaner, safer, low carbon energy systems will save millions of lives each year. Moving to more active lifestyles and expansion of and access to public transport systems can improve health through increased physical activity and reduced air pollution. Improving insulation in homes and buildings can protect people from extreme temperatures and reduce energy consumption. All of these changes will provide significant economic savings. Climate action that recognises these benefits can improve the health of individuals and communities, support resilient and sustainable development, and improve global equity.

### What we seek from climate action

Recognising health in all policies and strengthening health systems globally can advance human rights and help create safe, resilient, adaptable, and sustainable communities.

### We call for:

- The health impacts of climate change to be taken into account domestically and globally

- Health impacts and co-benefits to be fully evaluated, costed and reflected in all domestic, regional and global climate decisions on both mitigation and adaptation;
- Health and environmental costs to be reflected in corporate and national accounts;
- Assessment of loss and damage from climate change to include impacts on human health, wellbeing and community resilience, as well as impacts to health care infrastructure and systems;
- Investment in climate mitigation and adaptation to be significantly increased on a rapid timescale
  - Priority given to decarbonisation of national and global energy supplies;
  - Cessation of fossil fuel subsidies globally and greater funding for renewable and clean technologies;
  - Funding for programs to support and protect health in vulnerable countries to be significantly increased;
  - Investment in adaptation and mitigation programs that can demonstrate health benefits to be substantially increased;
- The health sector and the community to be engaged and informed on climate action
  - The health sector to be engaged and included in the processes of designing and leading climate mitigation and adaptation worldwide;
  - National and global education programs to increase public awareness of the health effects of climate change and promote the health co-benefits of low carbon pathways; and
  - More inclusive consultation processes in global climate negotiations to reflect the views of young people, women and indigenous people.

### Our future

Human health is profoundly threatened by our global failure to halt emissions growth and curb climate change. As representatives of health communities around the world, we argue that strategies to achieve rapid and sustained emissions reductions and protect health must be implemented in a time frame to avert further loss and damage.

We recognise that this will require exceptional courage and leadership from our political, business and civil society leaders, including the health sector; acceptance from the global community about the threats to health posed by our current path ; and a willingness to act to realise the many benefits of creating low carbon, healthy, sustainable and resilient societies.

*'You cannot tackle hunger, disease and poverty unless you can also provide people with a healthy ecosystem' - Gro Harlem Brundtland*

### Signatories to the Doha Declaration on Climate, Health & Wellbeing:

World Medical Association (WMA)  
 International Council of Nurses  
 European Public Health Alliance  
 Climate and Health Alliance, Australia  
 Health and Environment Alliance (Europe)  
 Health Care Without Harm  
 Climate and Health Council (UK)  
 C3 Collaborating for Health

NHS Sustainable Development Unit (SDU)  
 International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)  
 OraTaiao: The NZ Climate & Health Council  
 The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare  
 The Humanitarian Centre Healthy Planet (UK)

The full list of signatories is available [here](#).



## APPENDIX B:

### Joint statement on the health effects of Australia's minerals and energy policy

The joint statement is signed by Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA), National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA), Climate Change Health Research Network (NCCARF-ARN), Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA), Cancer Council Australia, Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY), National Toxics Network (NTN), Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA), NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA), the Australian Nursing Federation, Services for Rural and Remote Health (SARRAH), Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA), the Australian College of Nursing (ACN), and the Australian Medical Students Association (AMSA).

#### Joint Statement

*"The risks to human health from energy and resources policy are not well accounted for in current policy decisions.*

*"Significant policy reform is needed to ensure health and wellbeing is not compromised by policy decisions in other sectors. Recognising the importance of the social and environmental determinants of health is an important part of that.*

*"The overriding concern is that climate change is being driven by energy choices and minerals policies that privilege and prioritise the extraction and combustion of fossil fuels over safer, healthier, lower emissions, renewable energy resources.*

*"The local health impacts from coal mining, transportation and combustion are also a significant concern, and communities living in proximity to these activities are experiencing adverse social impacts, such as loss of amenity, displacement, and loss of social capital as well as facing increased risks of respiratory disease, heart disease, and lung cancer.*

*"The rapid expansion of the fossil fuel (coal and unconventional gas) industries in Australia demands these issues be urgently addressed.*

*"There are serious concerns raised about the availability of data and support for health research on this issue.*

*"A lack of monitoring and inadequate investment in research means there is grossly insufficient data available in Australia on health impacts to inform policy decisions. Research from international sources suggests major cause for concern in terms of exposure to pollution of water and air – these impacts need to be evaluated here in Australia.*

*"The health impacts of minerals and energy policy must be an area of research priority that is given significant levels of independent funding, and there needs to be greatly increased surveillance and monitoring to ensure sufficient data collection on which to base this research.*

*"There is a need for education for health professionals and the community more broadly around the health implications of energy policy choices, health professionals across all disciplines are encouraged to advocate for minerals, energy and climate policies on the basis of health.*

*"Health professionals have an important role to play in educating decision makers and the community about the health implications of energy choices and the health implications of climate change.*

*"The local and global effect of fossil fuel use on health and wellbeing is an immediate problem as well as an issue of intergenerational equity, with the exploitation of these resources causing irreversible harm to Earth's systems, compromising the health and security of future generations."*

## APPENDIX C:

### Forum on Climate and Health: Research, Policy and Advocacy Joint Statement from Participants 15 November 2013

Health and medical researchers, health and medical professionals, students, environmental educators and community members attending the Climate and Health Forum in Melbourne on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013 have issued a joint statement expressing their collective concern at the current lack of recognition of the health effects of climate change by governments, businesses and the broader community.

The Participants (undersigned) said in the Statement:

*“Climate change is the greatest health risk of the 21st century.*

*There is a clear relationship between human-driven climate change and extreme weather events, including an increase in the frequency and severity of heatwaves, floods, and bushfires.*

*The health of people in Australia, in the Asia Pacific region, and around the world is being affected by increasingly frequent and more extreme weather events. Climate change has national and global significance as an issue of public health and safety, and has the potential to cause significant loss of life.*

*The recent bushfires in NSW and extremely high average temperatures are local indicators of the rapid increase in global temperatures being driven by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas; deforestation; and carbon intensive agriculture.*

*The use of fossil fuels such as coal and gas not only drives climate change, but causes harm to the health of people now, and is occurring at the expense of healthy and secure societies in coming years and decades.*

*We urge individuals, organisations, communities, businesses and governments to shift investment away from polluting industries to protect the health and wellbeing of current and future generations.*

*A healthy community is the foundation of a healthy economy, and human health and wellbeing is fundamentally dependent on healthy ecosystems.*

*Consideration of the interdependence of health and environment needs to be factored into trade and investment decisions about energy and transport and should guide private and public divestment from fossil fuel industries.*

*The current and increasingly severe impacts on human health from climate change are not being adequately recognised in public and private sector decisions, or in the national health and medical research agenda. The National Health and Medical Research Council spends less than a quarter of one percent of all its research funding on projects with any connection to climate change.*

*We urge governments and policymakers to use the expertise of public health professionals and academics as a rigorously researched basis for public policy on health and environment, and support practical community-based projects that translate the benefits of climate science into real gains for communities.*

*This should include research into cognitive psychological barriers to responding to climate change and programs to build resilience among individuals, families and communities to deal with the psychological,*

*mental, social and physical challenges posed by climate change.*

*We ask the Australian government to fund a program of research that will support the Australian community to plan for and manage the health effects of climate change and extreme weather, and deliver benefits for the many Australian and regional communities affected by climate events, such as bushfires and drought, flooding and storms, and coastal inundation.*

*We urge the federal and state parliaments to consider the health impacts of climate change and ask all levels of government and parties to work together to develop a national strategy to respond."*

Signed

*Fiona Armstrong*

*Ron Blankenforth*

*Professor Marc Cohen*

*Professor John Wiseman*

*MairiAnne Mackenzie*

*Sue Cooke*

*Rachel Tham*

*Dr James Whelan*

*Dr Jennifer Alden*

*Aileen Thoms*

*Dr Lindsay Quennell*

*Sue Plowright*

*Professor Colin Butler*

*Dr Brad Farrant*

*Emeritus Professor Rae Walker*

*Dr Elizabeth Haworth*

*Dr Elizabeth Peach*

*Carol Chenco*

*Meagan Hibbert*

*Adjunct Professor Michael Moore*

*Ngaire McGaw*

*Nicola Palmer*

*Valerie Kay*

*Joanna Drennan*

*Associate Professor Melissa Haswell*

*Pip Carew*

*Stephen Pannell*

*Simon Livesey*

*Associate Professor Erica Bell*

*Dr Liz Hanna*

*Dr Lesley Russell*

*Madeline Dorman*

*Lucy Wickham*

*Ian McBurney*

*Paula Bateson*

*Emily Hamilton*

## APPENDIX D:

### Statement of Commitment on Climate Change

[An open letter to Child Advocate and Research Institutes](#)

[An open letter to Community Organisations, Businesses and the Australian Public](#)

We acknowledge the scientific consensus regarding the existence of climate change and the substantial contribution the human population is now making to this via our greenhouse gas emissions.

We also acknowledge that climate change is the biggest global health threat of the 21st century and that current Australian and international carbon reduction commitments are nowhere near enough to avoid this threat. Despite the urgent need for steep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to avoid dangerous climate change, the level of global emissions continues to increase. The threat to our children and future generations grows larger with every passing year.

The current generations of adults have a responsibility to do everything we possibly can to protect the children of today and tomorrow from dangerous climate change. Hence it is of utmost importance that climate change is included as an urgent priority area for advocacy, research, policy and practice.

For the sake of our children and future generations we make the commitment to:

- Show leadership in our workplaces and in our communities by advocating climate action consistent with the science.
- Reduce our carbon footprint (e.g., by reducing energy use and increasing energy efficiency, switching to renewable energy, reducing waste, reducing personal transport emissions, purchasing carbon offsets for electricity and gas use and transport, including air travel, and monitoring the carbon footprint of suppliers).
- Measure our performance against defined targets and seek to constantly reduce our environmental footprint.
- Incorporate considerations regarding climate change into our decision making processes. That is, when we are making decisions we will do so in way that recognises whether we are increasing or decreasing our greenhouse gas emissions.
- Work to increase awareness of the threat that climate change poses to the health and wellbeing of our children and future generations and create opportunities for behaviour change to reduce this threat.
- Strive to ensure that our financial investments are not contributing to the threat by divesting ourselves and our organisation of investments in carbon intensive and environmentally destructive activities and industries.
- Conduct and/or advocate high quality research into the current and future effects of climate change on child health and wellbeing.
- Take the findings of existing research and translate these into policy and practice that will adequately protect our children and future generations from dangerous climate change and to advocate for their implementation.

[To make your commitment as an Individual click here.](#)

[To make your commitment as a Business or Community Organisation, send an email to Brad Farrant.](#)

[To view the list of supporting Businesses and Community Organisations click here.](#)

[To view the list of supporting Child Advocate and Research Institutes click here.](#)