

Prescribing a safe climate
for human health

Ten years of impact from the Climate and Health Alliance

2010—2020



CLIMATE^{AND}
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

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for human health

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Recognition and Commitment

We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People as the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work and acknowledge that sovereignty of the land we call Australia has never been ceded. We commit to listening to and learning from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about how we can better reflect Indigenous ways of being and knowing in our work.



2010—2020

The Climate and Health Alliance was ten years old in 2020.

We have produced this report as a record of our first ten years of achievement and impact.

This is our story – our motivation and mandate, our capacity building and some early wins. It also speaks to our future – the challenges and opportunities ahead as we play a unique, credible and vital role in supporting the transition to a healthy, regenerative and just future.

Then and now

CAHA's Executive Director takes a look back – and forward



Fiona Armstrong,
Executive Director

CAHA began with few resources – a challenge heightened in part by siloed approaches to policy, media coverage, and regulation of charities. We were driven however, by the clear and critical need to respond to the climate threat to health, thus despite the roadblocks, we set about addressing our mandate with absolute commitment. As a result, CAHA rapidly earned a reputation for effective evidence based advocacy, a collaborative approach, and a willingness to engage positively with stakeholders, policymakers and media.

In 2020, we have now achieved national and global recognition for our work, including in the international medical journal *The Lancet*, which has described our efforts as an example that leaders, and countries, should look to “for inspiration and achievement”.

We have helped shift the narrative from climate as a purely environmental issue to one that is clearly also human and social. We've built a strong coalition of health groups with a firm commitment to climate advocacy and leadership, despite ongoing everyday demands on healthcare services and health professional associations. We've inspired and helped build leadership among individuals at all levels of the health sector: clinicians, policymakers, health service managers, boards, presidents, academics, researchers, and students.

We've learned a lot along the way, including from our friends in the climate movement both in Australia and internationally, about advocacy, campaigning, community organising, and climate communications; about extremely complex and extensively documented evidence from our highly respected scientific advisors, and from our health sector partners about what they want and need from us.

We have built a large, credible and committed health movement for climate action – and this is starting to have an impact on policy, on the the health sector, and in the media. There remains much more to do, to shift community attitudes towards recognising and prioritising health in the context of climate change, but we know this is an incredibly powerful and effective frame.

In this moment of a global public health crisis – the COVID-19 pandemic – we have an opportunity to further build public awareness and support for action by bringing this issue, and the voices of health professionals, to the fore.



Artist Nick Pedersen's vision for a healthy, regenerative and just future

There remains much more to do, to shift community attitudes towards recognising and prioritising health in the context of climate change, but we know this is an incredibly powerful and effective frame.

Through our *Real Urgent and Now (RUN)* project, we are working to scale up the capacity of health leaders and frontline health professionals to speak to the climate crisis, and to amplify their voices to reach the wider community and create a positive mandate for action from our political leaders.

During COVID-19, we engaged health leaders and cross-sectoral experts in a deep discussion about possible alternative future scenarios for Australia. Over 100 thought leaders engaged in the Rewrite the Future roundtable series, from which five possible alternative scenarios emerged, along with the Healthy Regenerative and Just policy agenda, which builds on the *Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Wellbeing for Australia*.

We will use this moment, and our passion for a healthy, regenerative and just future – the future we choose – to drive our advocacy forward, scale up our programs, and to further build the powerful health movement for climate action and sustainable healthcare that we all know we need. We invite you to join in pursuing this to protect and promote health and wellbeing for us all.



Climate change is
the biggest global
health threat of
the 21st century.

The Lancet, Vol 373, May 16, 2009

Our mandate as health professionals

In May 2009, one of the world's top medical journals released a major report. Concluding a year-long Commission held jointly between The Lancet and University College London Institute for Global Health, the report's assertion was unequivocal.

At that time, *The Lancet* also noted, health professionals "had barely begun to engage with an issue that should be a major focal point for their research, preparedness planning, and advocacy."

A year earlier, the World Health Organization estimated climate-related injury and illness was already accounting for over 150,000 deaths and 5.5 million healthy life years lost, annually.

5.5 million

HEALTHY LIFE YEARS LOST

150,000+

DEATHS

Estimated annual climate –related injury and illness

Source: World Health Organization

The call from experts to recognise climate change as a human health emergency became urgent

"The IPCC concluded ... that climate change would cause **increased heat-related mortality** and morbidity, decreased cold-related mortality in temperate countries, **greater frequency of infectious disease epidemics** following floods and storms, and **substantial health effects following population displacement** from sea level rise and increased storm activity."

IPCC. Synthesis Report, Third Assessment Report. Cambridge University Press, 2001.

"There are many opportunities for doctors and the rest of the health sector to **implement solutions which promote the community's health whilst protecting the environment and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.**

Health professionals can and should play an increased role in advocating community responses to protect health from climate change, including by engaging in policy development with other professional groups and sectors of government."

Climate Change Health Check – 2020, published 2008 for the Climate Institute of Australia, authors Dr Graeme Horton and Professor Tony McMichael – Doctors for the Environment, Australia

What's at stake— The human health implications of climate change



Smoke pollution from the megafires in the summer of 2019/20 led to over 4,000 admissions to hospital, with health damages from the fires amounting to \$1.95 billion.



The health and social costs of climate mediated events represent a significant economic burden, with the health and social costs of the Black Saturday bushfires and 2011 Queensland floods totalling AUD\$3.9 and \$7.4 billion respectively.



Heatwaves in Victoria in 2009 and 2014 contributed to 374 and 167 excess deaths, respectively.



Reduced productivity due to extreme heat already costs the Australian economy over AUD\$8 billion annually and the economic losses and health risks will increase significantly due to climate change.



Air pollution from coal-fired electricity generation is responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths globally each year, and the health impacts of coal-fired power generation is already estimated to cost Australia AUD\$2.6 billion annually.



It is estimated that increased incidence and severity of heatwaves from global warming could contribute to several thousand additional deaths Australia-wide by 2050.



Climate change is contributing to health risks posed by allergenic pollens and fungi, increasing the likelihood of events such as the 2016 thunderstorm asthma event in Victoria, which caused a 3,000% increase in asthma-related admissions to intensive care and contributed to the death of nine people.



Many climate change mitigation and adaptation policies offer significant co-benefits for health. For example, the health benefits from climate mitigation policies to reduce air pollution could offset the health cost burden by up to 10 times the cost of implementation.

The Climate and Health Alliance founded in 2010

The Climate and Health Alliance's mission was **to build a powerful health sector movement for climate action and sustainable healthcare.**

Through collaboration, advocacy, engagement and information sharing, the Alliance sought **to activate health professionals as powerful advocates for national and global action** on the climate health emergency, build public support by communicating climate health impacts and support the health sector to cut emissions and build climate health resilience.

Through these activities, CAHA has grown to become the **leading national climate and health peak body**, becoming recognised internationally for its leadership on advocacy, policy, research translation and communications.



CAHA's first delegation to Parliament House, Canberra, 15th November 2010

We responded to an urgent need

In 2010, it was clear that Australian and global communities were already experiencing the negative health effects of climate change. Without intervention, these only risked becoming worse. Amid increasing concerns about the profound human health and ecological consequences associated with unmitigated climate change – and the recognition that there would be many health benefits through strong climate action. Over 40 organisations and individuals met in Melbourne on 4th August 2010 to discuss a collective position. At this meeting, the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) was formed.

We hit the ground running

Back in 2010, CAHA's first public statement from our inaugural meeting called for urgent action to reduce emissions:

"Scientists are warning us we may have only this decade to act to avoid catastrophic runaway climate change. We urge our governments to act on this advice. As health professionals, we value science and its inclusion in the development of public policy, and we expect our governments to do the same,"

CAHA Founder (and then Convenor) Fiona Armstrong said.

The Alliance emphasised that policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions have the potential to bring important public health benefits.

"Actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will not only reduce climate risk and environmental harm, but will also improve health outcomes and reduce health costs."

Just months later, on 15 November 2010, CAHA's powerful health voice joined the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Climate Project, the Australian Youth Climate Coalition and Union Climate Connectors for the Canberra Climate Advocacy Day at Parliament House. Together, these organisations represented hundreds of thousands of Australians from a broad cross section of the community, including youth, the labour movement, health professionals and business. They met with 56 Federal politicians and urged all parliamentarians to support a price on carbon.

The Public Health Association of Australia newsletter reported CAHA as:

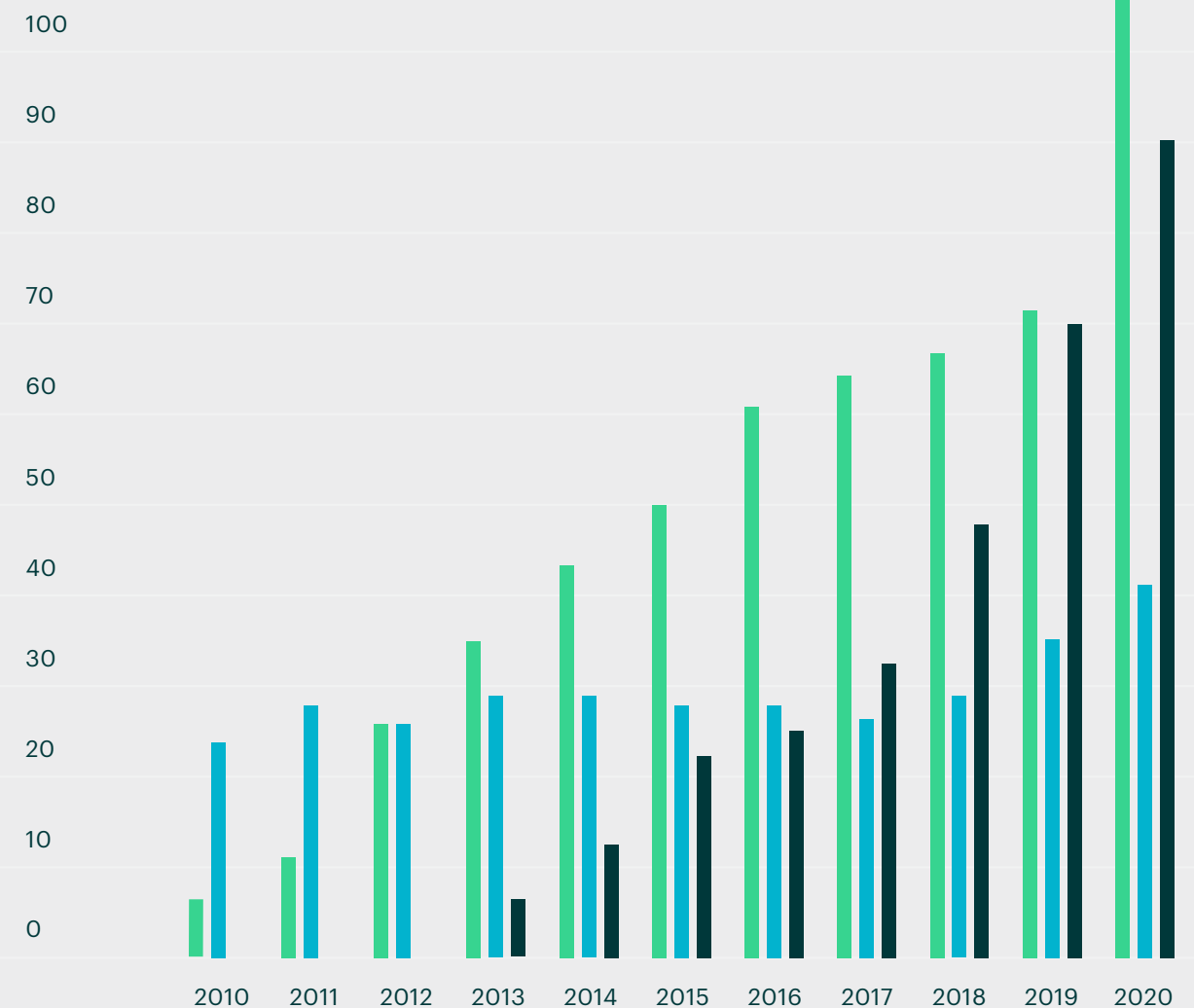
"...the perfect example of an alliance that can be used as a leverage point by both PHAA and AHPA for advocacy and information sharing on climate change."

With greater capacity and resources, CAHA has experienced a leap in membership since 2018, with around 20% growth each year in Organisational Members from 2018 to 2019, and 40% from 2019 to 2020.



CAHA MEMBERSHIP

ORGANISATIONS
INDIVIDUALS
GGHH MEMBERS



We championed health sector expertise as a compelling voice for climate solutions

Our member groups grew to represent over 500,000 health professionals across Australia

CAHA members include health organisations and health professionals from nursing and midwifery, medicine, nutrition and dietetics, allied health, public health, as well as academic and independent researchers, media, government, policy makers, along with individual and community supporters and collaborators including NGOs in climate, sustainability and health sectors.

While almost entirely volunteer led in its early years, **CAHA has a remarkable list of achievements**, and since securing our first major philanthropic grant in 2017, it has grown steadily in size and influence.

In 2020, CAHA had the support of 45 organisations (including professional associations, academic and research institutions, health unions, healthcare service providers, and healthcare consumer groups) to create a powerful and collaborative alliance of health stakeholders working together for climate action to protect and promote health and wellbeing.

We attracted significant support and built strong networks

The Climate and Health Alliance works with a wide range of stakeholders, including its network of members and the wider healthcare sector, as well as government and industry. Today CAHA's network extends to every state and territory in Australia, and around the world, through our partnership with international NGO Health Care Without Harm, its foundational membership of Global Climate and Health Alliance, and contributions to the World Health Organization (WHO) Civil Society Working Group To Advance Action on Health and Climate.

We've showcased low carbon and sustainable healthcare in action

Since 2012, CAHA has held annual national 'Greening the Healthcare Sector' events to bring together those working on climate resilience and environmental sustainability in healthcare. These events attract CEOs, policymakers, sustainability professionals, clinicians, communicators, hospital engineers, consultants and students.

Anaesthetist Dr Forbes McGain from Western Health led the first project to reduce emissions through switching anaesthetic gases



Western Health doctors use greener gas for general anaesthetics to reduce carbon

There are now 100+ Friends of CAHA

While still relatively small, this nation-wide network of committed and passionate individuals has grown over recent years.

"CAHA provides practical opportunities for all health professionals who are concerned about the impacts of climate change to collaborate on national, state and local initiatives to ensure that Australia adopts a more effective and constructive response to the climate emergency. CAHA is also a wonderful mechanism to just network and learn more about the issues of health and climate change from some of Australia's leading experts."



Professor Lucie Rychetnik, Co-Director of The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre, Professor with the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney, Member of Friends of CAHA, and one of CAHA's Board Directors.

We've produced 30 case studies of success

These publications illustrate the progress being made across the ten goal areas for the network: Leadership, Energy, Waste, Water, Buildings, Transport, Food, Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals, and Procurement, including a world-first example of switching anaesthetic gases for one with a lower global warming potential (at Western Health in Victoria) – which was covered by the Herald Sun.

In 2020,
we grew to
45
organisational
members



104



GGHH ANZ REGION MEMBERS

30



CASE STUDIES OF SUCCESS

100♥

FRIENDS OF CAHA /
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

500K+

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ACROSS AUSTRALIA
REPRESENTED BY CAHA MEMBER GROUPS



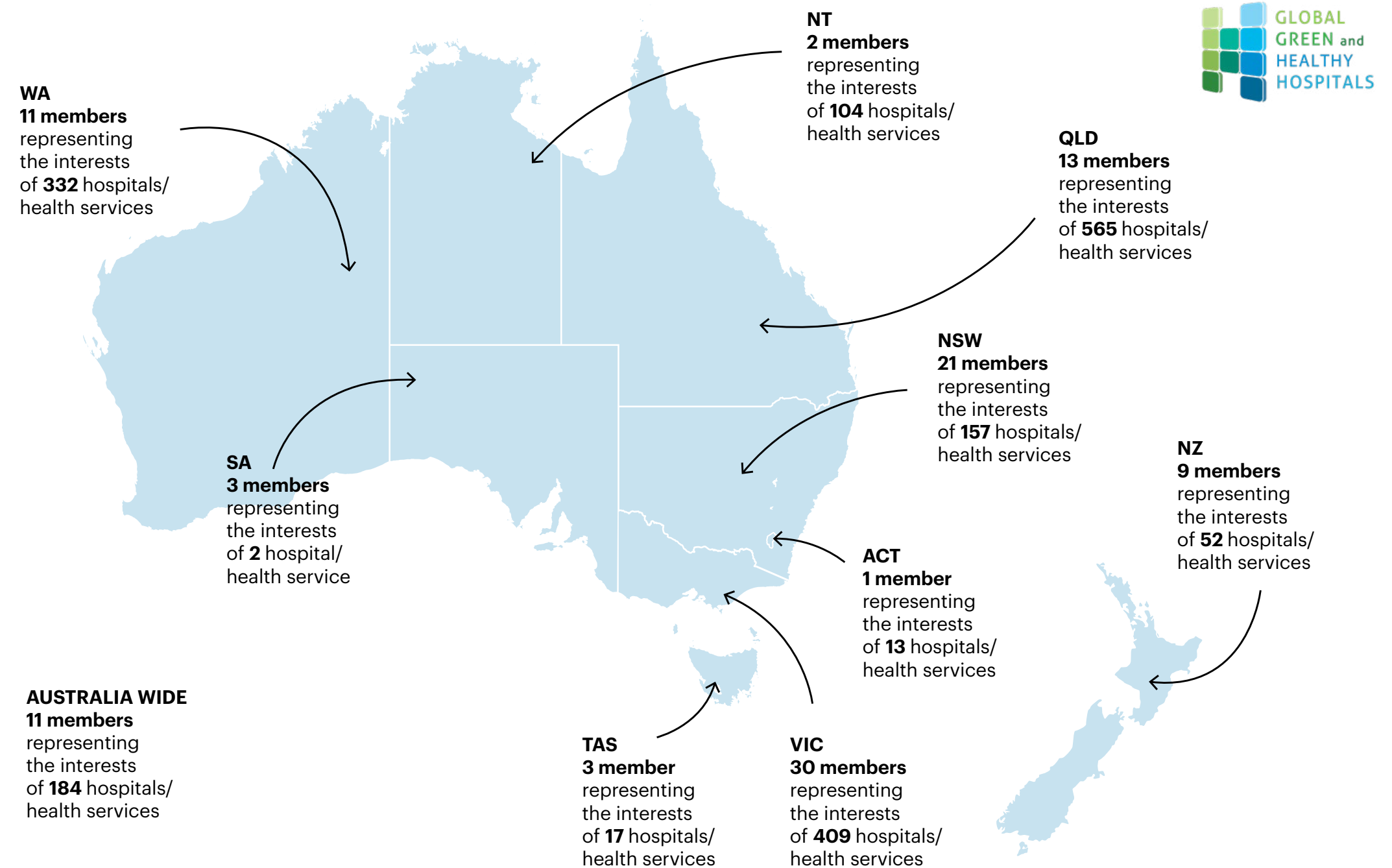
We're helping to build a global green and healthy hospitals network

To further amplify the call for a healthy climate, in 2012 CAHA began coordinating the Australia and New Zealand arm of the global Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Network (GGHH). Initiated by our international partner, Health Care Without Harm, GGHH offers a comprehensive framework of 10 interconnected goals for the health sector to address and promote greater sustainability and environmental health.

CAHA's goal was to consistently grow this network by 20% each year in the Australian and NZ region: We've exceeded that by growing the network 50% on average annually. In 2020, there are 96 Members in the Australian and NZ region of the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) network representing over 1,700 individual hospitals and health services.

The network extends across every Australian state and territory and includes health departments from QLD and Victoria, the public health unit in Tasmania, most public health services in Victoria, many in WA, and NSW, along with three branches of Australia's largest national union and professional nursing and midwifery organisation, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (Victoria, NSW and SA).

Global Green and Healthy Hospitals have 104 members in the Pacific region representing over 1,800 hospitals and health services



We supported health and climate leaders to emerge and engage

“I wasn’t engaged much in the issue before I accepted an invitation from the Australian College of Emergency Medicine to attend a Roundtable at Parliament House in Canberra, organised by Climate and Health Alliance.

The penny dropped for me at that meeting – it was the role of health and medical professionals to lead advocacy for action on climate. There is no issue more important in my view than securing effective climate action to reduce risks to human health. What else is there, if our health is threatened?”



Dr Marianne Cannon,
Emergency Physician

We help members and partners publicly advocate for action

CAHA works with its member organisations and other health sector partners and other allies to advocate for action on the climate–health emergency. We first called for a national plan to protect the community from further health risks from climate change in 2010.

We built on that in 2013, and outlined a Vision for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Wellbeing in our platform for the 2013 Federal Election.

Since 2016, CAHA has led the *Our Climate Our Health* campaign to act on longstanding calls for a national plan to tackle the health impacts of climate change. We led a national consultation over 18 months to propose and then develop – based on advice from the health sector – a *Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Wellbeing for Australia*. We’ve secured support for this agenda from a wide range of stakeholders, including the Australian Medical Association and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

The success of this advocacy agenda is illustrated by:

98% of surveyed health leaders

supported CAHA’s proposal for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Wellbeing

2,300+ people signed up online

to support CAHA’s Our Climate Our Health campaign

1,000+ individuals emailed their MP

calling on them to commit to CAHA’s National Strategy on Climate, Health and Wellbeing for Australia, and asking them to work with their parliamentary colleagues to develop and implement this plan as a national priority, and dozens more have met personally with their MP or a candidate for office with the same call

50+ organisations

endorsed the Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Wellbeing for Australia, with signatories to an Open Letter to all political candidates calling for urgent action on the climate–health emergency in the lead up to the 2019 federal election representing over a million Australians.



We're strengthening and mobilising the health sector's voice on climate through outreach and engagement

CAHA has received hundreds of invitations to speak at conferences, seminars, meetings and events, nationally and internationally. Since 2010, CAHA has:

Presented at 100+

national and international conferences public events

Hosted 60 events

including seminars, forums, roundtables, dialogues, webinars, workshops and training events and parliamentary delegations

Hosted 3,100+

key influencers, thought leaders and professionals across Australia, at CAHA's own events

Reached 13,000+

people at other face-to-face conferences and events.



We've become the 'go to' for expertise on climate and health

Some key media moments included:

- » ABC Big Ideas panel – Climate Change and Health, 7 June 2019
- » The cost of inaction on Australia's new number one threat, news.com.au, May 2019
- » Australia's Queensland Tackles Climate-Driven Disease, Deaths, Voice of America, 15 September 2018
- » Climate constrained healthcare, Inside Story, 5 September 2018
- » Australian climate policy "ignoring" billions in health savings – ABC Radio National Breakfast, 27 June 2018
- » Climate change: A turning point on public health? – Life Matters, ABC Radio National, 7 April 2017
- » The Health Impacts Of Climate Change Are Huge And Very Real, The Huffington Post, 11 October 2016
- » Climate change could worsen diseases like Zika virus, experts say, Sydney Morning Herald, 28 January 2016
- » Activists call for Hunter Valley coal mine ban, ABC Radio National Breakfast, 23 February 2015
- » New report claims coal mining a public health burden, Hunter Valley News, 24 February 2015
- » Hunter coal health cost 600m a year, Herald Sun, 24 February 2015
- » Front Page: Cut the Coal, Newcastle Herald, 22 February 2015



We wrote dozens of blogs and opinion pieces, reaching an estimated tens of thousands of people across diverse sectors and readerships



Climate and Health Researcher and then CAHA President Liz Hanna

- » Beyond COVID-19: a healthier, greener, fairer world is possible, Fiona Armstrong and Tony Capon, Insight, Medical Journal of Australia, 15 June 2020
- » Coronavirus is a wake-up call: our war with the environment is leading to pandemics, Fiona Armstrong, Tony Capon, and Ro McFarlane, The Conversation, 31 March 2020 (over 50,000 readers)
- » Who will address the health emergency of climate change? Pearls and Irritations, 22 April 2019
- » Climate policy needs a new lens: health and well-being, Fiona Armstrong and Peter Doherty, The Conversation, 21 July 2016
- » Climate mitigation – the greatest public health opportunity of our time, The Conversation, 23 June 2015.
- » Powerful alliances pushing for action on climate change, locally and globally, Crikey, 23 June 2015
- » Costs of coal are too high, Newcastle Herald, 26 February 2015
- » Climate change is one of the most critical health issues to consider at the election, Crikey, 14 August 2013
- » Climate science, personal opinion, and the duty of leadership: Questions the media (and the public) should be asking, Brad Farrant, Fiona Armstrong, Karen Kiang, and Mark Edwards, The Conversation, 2013.
- » Carbon price's health 'bonanza', Sydney Morning Herald, 26 June 2012
- » Rolling the dice at Durban, Business Spectator, The Australian, 9 December 2011

Human health, climate change and the devastating effects of bushfire

At the end of 2019 as hundreds of bushfires burned out of control and a state of emergency was declared, CAHA led the development of a Joint Statement, signed by 28 health groups, labelling the extremely hazardous levels of air pollution from the bushfires in NSW as a health emergency.

This dominated the media nationally, with CAHA appearing on The Today Show, Sunrise, The Kenny Report on Sky News, ABC Radio National Breakfast, Sydney Morning Herald, The Guardian, and in syndicated stories across the country.



During the 2019–2020 bushfire season, CAHA earned 328 media mentions across radio, TV and online news



We built capacity and empower the health sector

We've hosted over 50 volunteers and interns at CAHA – some of whom have gone on to secure roles in Departments of Health, Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Environment Protection Authority, environmental NGOs, media and local government.

More than 80% of participants in our training report increased climate–health literacy and boosted confidence in communicating about climate change.



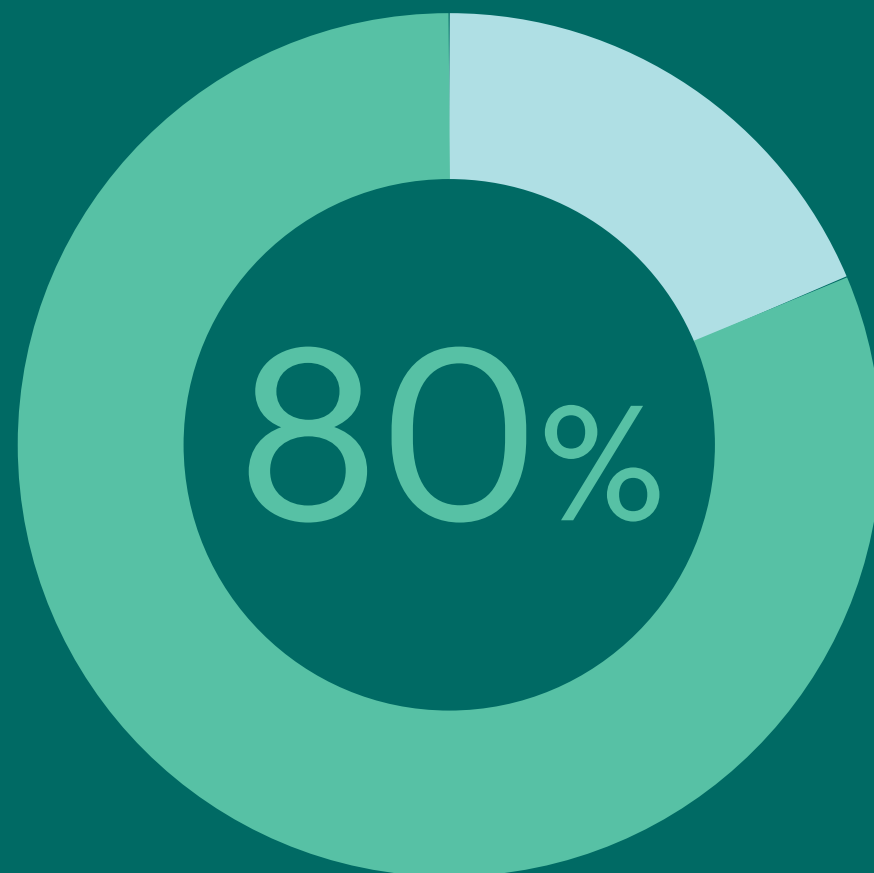
We support and promote health voices

CAHA pioneered leadership and capacity building training for health professionals through the ClimateHealth Champions program. This develops climate–health literacy, builds confidence and skills in advocacy and communications, and helps create local networks and communities–of–practice.

- » Since 2016, CAHA has delivered 11 Climate–Health Champions training sessions across Australia reaching over 220 health leaders and health practitioners
- » We delivered this training in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville, Sydney, Melbourne and Geelong


- » We've also built skills and capacity among our international partners by sharing this training with colleagues in NZ (2019) and The Philippines (2020).
- » In 2020 due to COVID-19, we offered Climate–Health Champions training online, working with 17 health leaders in the NT. This training focussed on campaign and advocacy skills and led to the development of a Northern Territory Election Briefing: Heat, Climate Change, Health and the Need for Urgent Action, signed by ten organisations and nine individuals, generating media coverage in NT news securing a meeting with the NT Health Minister.

80% of participants
in our training report
increased climate
–health literacy and
boosted confidence
in communicating
about climate change



220 

CLIMATE HEALTH CHAMPIONS

50 

VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

We contributed peer
reviewed articles to
scientific journals and
created impact through
building Australians'
knowledge



Case Study: Registered Nurse, Alana Street

Alana participated in 2017 Climate–Health Champions Workshop and reported back to her colleagues, members of CRANaplus:

“I recently attended, on your behalf, a three day Campaigning and Advocacy Workshop facilitated by CAHA. The workshop was attended by 27 healthcare professionals from all over Australia, representing their professional bodies and communities with a single purpose of learning how we can continue to make a difference in relation to climate change. The task at hand was to improve our knowledge and skills, develop new advocacy and campaigning skills and practise them during the weekend. Everyone was intent on making some differences to their own personal ‘toolkit’ whilst sharing them. Those emotions soon turned into confidence, newfound ability and a sense of achievement by the end of the workshop, thanks to the CAHA organisers.”

Impacts through building knowledge

- » We contributed **36 submissions** to government reviews, parliamentary committees and inquiries.
- » We’ve kept members and supporters updated and in the know, through **over 80 newsletters**.
- » Our short film, the *Human Cost of Power*, (pictured) showcased the harm to human health from coal and gas, and has **screened at film festivals and events across Australia and internationally**, including at the Think Forward Film Festival in Venice, as part of ARTCOP21 in Paris, and in Melbourne, Sydney, Paris, Geneva, and Warsaw.
- » We contributed **peer reviewed articles to scientific journals**.

Our work has also appeared in peer reviewed literature, with articles reflecting our advocacy or about our work published in scientific journals and publications including the international medical journal *The Lancet*, the *Medical Journal of Australia*, the *Health Promotion Journal of Australia*, *Environment Science and Policy*, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, and *Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy*. Many of the authors are either CAHA staff, board directors, members of the expert advisory committee, on our research and policy committee, or from our partner organisations.



These include:

An outline of the approach we used to develop a regional scale climate adaptation plan – the Qld Human Health and Wellbeing Climate Adaptation Plan – with the health sector: *From science to policy: Development of a climate change adaptation plan for the health and wellbeing sector in Queensland, Australia*

Fahim Tonmoy, Sue Cooke, Fiona Armstrong, David Rissik, *Environment Science and Policy*, 2020.

A statement from health leaders protesting the Australian Government’s “contemptuous dismissal of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 1.5 degrees report” in 2018: *Australian health professionals’ statement on climate change and health*

Kerry Arabena, Fiona Armstrong, Helen Berry, Peter Brooks, Tony Capon, Brendan Crabb et al. *The Lancet*, November 2018.

Documenting climate and health policy, research and advocacy efforts in Australia: *Climate change and health promotion in Australia: Navigating political, policy, advocacy and research challenges*.

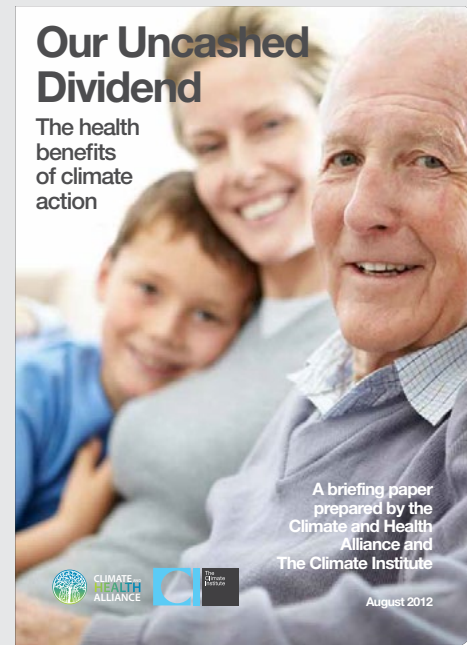
Patrick, R., Armstrong, F., Hancock, T., Capon, A., & Smith, J. A. *Health Promotion Journal of Australia*, 2019.

Highlighting the risks we face: *Effects of climate change – are we prepared?*

Peter Tait and Fiona Armstrong, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*. 41:324–324, 2017

We delivered world-first projects and groundbreaking reports

In 2012, together with The Climate Institute, CAHA produced a groundbreaking report, *Our Uncashed Dividend: The Health Benefits of Climate Action*.



It demonstrated that actions to cut carbon pollution could improve Australians' health and could save billions of dollars and thousands of lives each year. This was the first research translation piece ever to be produced on this topic. Launched at the Canberra Hospital by leading epidemiologist and climate change and health researcher, Professor Tony McMichael, he described *Our Uncashed Dividend* as a 'seminal moment' in the battle for recognition of the health impacts of climate change.



Climate and Health Researcher & (then) CAHA President Liz Hanna, economist Francis Grey, Hunter Valley farmer Wendy Bowman, and CAHA ED Fiona Armstrong at a press conference in Sydney launching the Coal and Health in the Hunter report.

We exposed direct and immediate harms to health from coal and fossil fuels

Our report, *Coal and Health in the Hunter: Lessons from one valley for the world*, broke new ground by demonstrating the power of health expertise in speaking to the health impacts of climate change. This work presented a living Australian example of the damage coal mining and emissions cause to human health. It revealed scientific evidence of the harm – local, national, and global – from coal production in Australia's most carbon intensive region: the Hunter Valley in New South Wales.

Review of the evidence estimated the health costs from coal to the economy to include: \$600m pa from pollution from the five Hunter coal-fired power stations, \$65.3 million pa from fine particle pollution from coal mines and power stations in Singleton and Muswellbrook, and \$13 million pa through air pollution from coal sources in Newcastle. It estimated the wider global impacts (the 'social cost of carbon') from coal production in the Hunter Valley to be \$16–66 billion pa.

Attracting national news attention and extensive media coverage, the report was accompanied by four case studies and short videos showing people and communities affected by coal mining in the Hunter. CAHA also led an associated roadshow, speaking directly to affected communities in the Hunter Valley region. While we can't claim sole responsibility, it is a fact that following the release of our report, the four proposed coal projects that we covered did not proceed.

We addressed the health implications of our energy choices

The burning of coal for electricity generation and other fossil fuels for transport pose serious and direct risks to human health. We brought together health leaders, including the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer, for a Roundtable in 2013 to discuss the Health Implications of Energy Choices.

Following the roundtable, we secured the support of multiple stakeholders in advocating for the rapid phasing out of coal in our Position Paper on Health and Energy Choices and accompanying Background Briefing Paper, released Nov 2014.



We helped health professionals walk the talk

In 2014, CAHA and Doctors for the Environment Australia released a joint report highlighting the role all health professionals could play to protect human health through their investment choices. It presented the case for health and medical professionals and organisations to divest from fossil fuel investments and shift their financial resources to clean, healthy, low carbon investments. *Investing in Health: The Australian health professions and fossil fuel divestment* supported health sector campaigns for fossil fuel divestment by our members and partner organisations, particularly Healthy Futures and Doctors for the Environment, Australia.

This report has supported several health divestment campaigns, with multiple outcomes including the private health fund HCF committing to divest from fossil fuels in 2017. In 2014, industry super fund HESTA committed to restrictions on thermal coal investments, then in 2020, announced a commitment to 'net zero emissions' investments by 2050.

10/10

10 GROUNDBREAKING REPORTS IN OUR FIRST DECADE



We produced a game changing framework for a national strategy on climate and health

Our national survey and consultation, revealed deep dissatisfaction among health stakeholders with federal government climate policies on climate. There was almost universal agreed that a nationally coordinated strategy was needed. CAHA worked with health stakeholders and experts to identify health sector priorities and concerns with multiple workshops, public forums, a nine-day online discussion forum, and held a Health Leaders Roundtable in Parliament House in Canberra.



In 2017, we launched a world-first Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being at Parliament House in Canberra.



Leading Independent and key cross bench members of the House of Representatives Zali Steggall (Warringah, NSW), Helen Haines (Indi, VIC), Rebekha Sharkie (Mayo, SA) and Andrew Wilkie (Denison, TAS) have all expressed support for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being.

FRAMEWORK FOR A NATIONAL STRATEGY ON CLIMATE, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR AUSTRALIA


June 2017



CAHA secured policy commitments to climate action in a health context from two of the major political parties: the ALP and The Greens; and in an unprecedented display of cooperation, both parties agreed to support the same policy: *A National Strategy on Climate Change and Health*, with both explicitly referencing CAHA's Framework as the basis for the policy. It had the rare distinction of bringing together three national political parties on climate change and health in Federal Parliament.



A 2020 report from the UN Global Compact network in Australia, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), acknowledges calls for a *National Strategy for Health and Climate Change*. This is the first ever report produced by or with an Australian Government department on climate change and health, and references to CAHA's work are an indication of our influence in this space.

50+ 

Over 50 health and medical and social sector organisations have endorsed the Framework and called for the National Strategy to be adopted. Campaign partners have also developed policy and positions on climate change and health, engaging in advocacy with relevant Ministers and policymakers, participating in joint statements and events, and raising awareness with their members and the public.

The CAHA-led Framework is now synonymous with promoting climate and health policy across Australia and internationally



Our Framework has gone global. Entering the global stage, the Framework was hailed a world-first initiative, showcased as such in *The Lancet*. It cited CAHA's Framework as an exemplar – a key example of positive collaborative action from health sector organisations – saying the Framework:

“goes beyond aspirational policy directives, and provides tangible strategies with measurable outcomes”



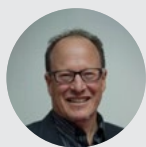
CAHA's Framework has been referred to as an exemplar for national climate and health policy in the Lancet Countdown and Medical Journal of Australia Australian Climate and Health Policy Briefs in 2017 and 2019

Recommendations

- 1 **Invest in health: accelerate the transfer to renewable energy and transport infrastructure**
Direct stimulus spending towards renewable energy and public and active transport infrastructure. This should include collaborating with state governments to expedite and scale up existing clean energy and transport projects. Rapid transition away from coal and natural gas is critical. Significant health benefits would arise from reduced air pollution and increased physical activity on a population level as well as the longer-term health benefits of mitigating climate change.
- 2 **Foster resilience: prepare and support communities affected by climate disasters**
Ensure communities can withstand and recover from extreme weather events. This should include disaster planning, preparation and education, community-scale healthcare delivery, development of robust communication systems and restoration of ecosystems in low-lying coastal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- 3 **Protect wellbeing: develop a national climate change and health strategy**
Develop a national, cross-sectoral climate change and health strategy. This should address both climate mitigation and adaptation, and encompass prevention, planning and preparedness; climate-health research; resilience and sustainability of the healthcare system and health equity.

We lead on policy for health and climate

“Over the past decade CAHA has helped generate and lead a global movement on climate and health. They’ve been out in front on this issue from the get-go, inspiring many around the world to take action in their hospitals, in the halls of government and in the streets. Health Care Without Harm is proud to count CAHA as the Australia partner in our global network and we look forward to working with them over the next ten years!”



Josh Karliner
International Director for Program and Strategy, Health Care Without Harm



We’ve grown the health sector’s political clout

CAHA has actively engaged with the political spectrum and specifically influenced policy positions of the Australian Labor Party, The Australian Greens and key independent members including Zali Stegall MP and Helen Haines MP.

In 2019, we helped organise at the first Climate and Health Briefing for the Parliamentary Friends of Climate Action in Canberra attended by parliamentarians from across the political spectrum.

In 2020, CAHA spoke at Parliament House with other supporters prior to the launch of the Climate Change Bill proposed by Independent Member Zali Steggall, and joined with 100 groups from across Australia, including Atlassian and the Australian Medical Association, in writing to all MPs expressing support for the Bill.

Our Framework for a National Strategy is gaining traction

With a vision for an integrated national strategy on climate change and health, CAHA’s Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Wellbeing has informed the development of health promoting climate policy at local and state government level in Australia, including most recently in the development of the Human Health and Wellbeing Climate Change Adaptation Plan (H-CAP) for Queensland.

The Australian Labor Party and The Greens have both endorsed the Framework, with the ALP pledging to develop a National Strategy on Climate Change and Health based on the Framework CAHA developed (in 2017 and again in 2019).

Our call for a National Strategy is now being championed by leading stakeholders, including the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP).

We've pushed governments to progress climate-health policy

NT

2020: Establishment of a **NT Department of Health Climate Change Health Advisory Group**, and a commitment to join GGHH.

WA

2019: CAHA played a leading role in the establishment of and evidence considered by the **WA Climate-Health Inquiry**

Federal

2018: **Senate Inquiry into National Security and Climate Change** recommended the development of a national strategy on climate, health and wellbeing for Australia.

QLD

2018: **Human Health and Wellbeing Climate Adaptation Plan for Queensland** accepted in full by the state government and is currently being implemented.

NSW

2019: CAHA commissioned by the office of the Health Minister Brad Hazzard to provide a **briefing on the financial savings available from implementing strategies to reduce emissions and improve environmental sustainability in healthcare.**

VIC

2019: **Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019–2023** has made 'Tackling climate change and its impact on health' its first priority.

ACT

2019: **The ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019–2025** has included a commitment to "improve sustainability performance and reduce emissions from ACT Health facilities".

TAS

2020: CAHA's climate and health policy framework reflected in the priority areas and identified actions report from **Tasmanian Climate Change and Health Roundtable**

Queensland

In 2018, the Qld Government commissioned CAHA (and the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility – NCCARF) to develop the *Human Health and Wellbeing Climate Adaptation Plan for Queensland* – a first in Australia.

This Plan was accepted in full by the Qld government and is currently being implemented. The announcement of funding for solar across 50 healthcare settings, and the establishment of a Sustainable Healthcare Unit in the Health Department, announced by the Health Minister in October 2020, are both recommendations championed by CAHA.

Tasmania

We were delighted to see CAHA's climate and health policy framework and key areas of policy action reflected in the report from Tasmanian Climate Change and Health Roundtable: Priority areas and identified actions released in June 2020. This report outlines 42 actions across seven priority areas, drawn from the Framework for National Strategy on Climate, Health and Wellbeing for Australia.

Western Australia

CAHA played a leading role in the WA Climate–Health Inquiry, the world's first such Inquiry conducted by a government department.

CAHA was described by the Inquiry Chair as “the most cited organisation on climate change and health in Australia today”.

We also hosted a Climate and Health Forum in partnership with Doctors for the Environment Australia during the Inquiry.

New South Wales

CAHA was commissioned by the office of the Health Minister Brad Hazzard to provide a briefing on the financial savings available from implementing strategies to reduce emissions and improve environmental sustainability in healthcare in 2019.

Victoria

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) were the first (in 2018) government department in Australia to join the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) network (which CAHA coordinates). Since then, the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019–2023 has made ‘Tackling climate change and its impact on health’ its first priority. Local governments in Victoria have also been utilising the CAHA Framework in developing their Public Health and Wellbeing Plans since 2017, and in 2020, the Victorian Government released ‘Tackling climate change and its impacts on health through municipal public health and wellbeing planning: guidance for local government’

Northern Territory

Since 2018, CAHA has been encouraging the NT to adopt climate–health policies and for NT Health to join the GGHH network. Our advocacy has contributed to establishment of a NT Department of Health Climate Change Health Advisory Group, all NT public health services joining the Green and Healthy Hospitals network. Pressure from health professionals supported by Climate and Health Alliance was attributed to helping ‘create a mandate’ for the Minister to act.

Australian Capital Territory

The ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019–2025 has included a commitment for ACT Health to “join the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network” which CAHA coordinates in Australia and New Zealand, to “improve sustainability performance and reduce emissions from ACT Health facilities”.

Federal: Climate and health recommendations for Australia's foreign policy

Referencing and echoing the call of CAHA's landmark 2017 report, the Senate Inquiry into National Security and Climate Change (May 2018) recommended the development of a national strategy on climate, health and wellbeing for Australia.

The House of Representatives Environment and Communications References Committee (ECRC) Inquiry into the current and future impacts of climate change on housing, buildings, and infrastructure directly references CAHA's recommendations, including the development of a national climate change and health strategy (Rec 23);

Additionally, prompted by CAHA's advocacy, questions have been asked of the Health Minister in Parliament:

- » the impact of climate change on public health; and
- » the likely health costs of climate change on health outcomes and Australia's health system.

Our Open Letter ahead of 2019 Federal election attracted 52 signatories representing 1 million Australians



We, the undersigned, call on all political parties and candidates in the upcoming federal election to:

- 1 Acknowledge the significant and profound impacts climate change has on the health of people and our health system.

2 Support the implementation of a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being, based on the Framework developed by health stakeholders.¹

3 Ensure the Strategy includes a credible, equitable and stable plan to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with emphasis on a rapid transition to renewable energy in the electricity and transport sectors.
- 4 Support rapid phase out of fossil fuel subsidies which contribute to climate change and health impacts.

5 Support the implementation of a plan to assist the health sector and the community, particularly people at risk, to adapt and build resilience to unavoidable climate change impacts already locked in.

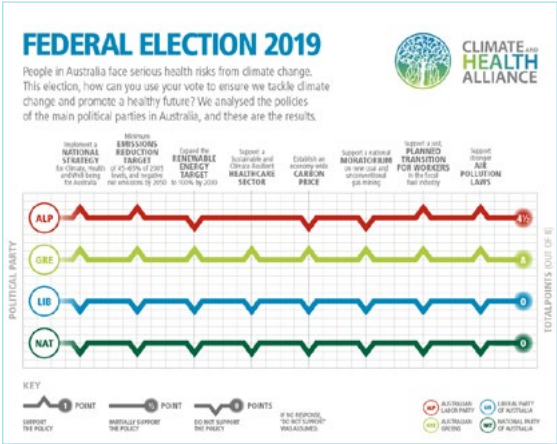
6 Support a climate and health research program to evaluate specific threats to health in Australia from climate change and the burning of fossil fuels.



We keep score on climate and health policy

CAHA has been evaluating government performance on climate and health policy ahead of each federal election, comparing parties on their policy commitments to climate change and health. Our scorecards are extremely popular – always shared widely on social media. Each pre-election scorecard has revealed dramatic gaps between political parties’ policies.

Our Framework and Scorecard were key campaign tools for climate-health advocates, many of whom presented copies to candidates, calling on them to commit to supporting this strategy.



Dr. Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, WHO Team Lead on Climate Change and Health

We’ve helped develop a global climate and health movement

CAHA has shaped climate and health advocacy internationally through being a founding member of the Global Climate and Health Alliance.

We led the development of the 2012 DOHA Declaration on Climate, Health and Wellbeing, signed by organisations from Russia, Europe, UK, USA, Asia, Africa, Canada, Sweden, New Zealand, Ireland, The Netherlands, India and, of course, Australia, representing millions of health professionals globally.

As part of successive international health delegations to the UNFCCC COP, we helped secure an obligation in the Paris Agreement for parties to consider health in the context of their national climate change response.

“We see the Paris Agreement as a fundamental public health agreement, potentially the most important public health agreement of the century.”

Dr. Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, WHO Team Lead on Climate Change and Health

Along with our Global Climate and Health Alliance partners, we helped host an annual Global Climate and Health Summit held in parallel with the global climate negotiations, assisting with the production of advocacy briefings to guide international climate and health advocacy ahead of each COP.

We've led impactful research and influenced policy and education

“CAHA prepared an excellent report for the City of Melbourne on the health impacts of climate change. The analysis included peer reviewed science applied to the vulnerability of Melbourne’s community to climate change...The results of their analysis were able to be directly included in our Climate Change Mitigation Strategy to 2050.. and provided a robust evidence base directly relevant to our policy context.”

Feedback following a review of health and climate change literature for the City of Melbourne. This review by CAHA was commissioned to inform them about the health and social benefits available through initiatives to achieve the City’s net zero emissions goal by 2050.

Climate Change and Health Policy Assessment Project Report: *A Global Survey 2015*

A report on the results from a global survey to evaluate the actions of national governments in protecting the health of their citizens from the impacts of climate change.

Environmental Health Working Group of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA)

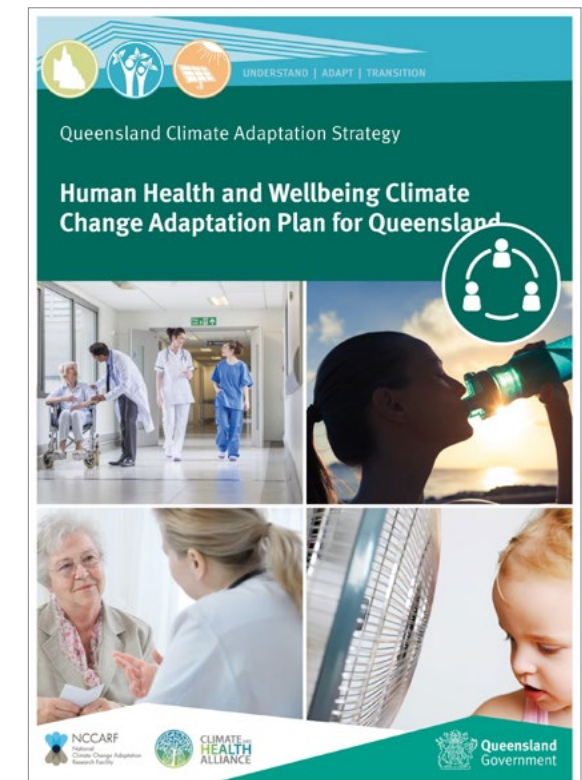


Global Climate–Health Policy Survey

CAHA conceived and led a project to conduct the first–ever global benchmarking survey of national climate and health policy, on behalf of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) in 2015.

The resulting report outlined responses from 35 countries, and showed Australia is well behind other industrialised nations in protecting its citizens from the major health risks associated with global warming.

This report was key to advocacy work to make human health central to global climate change negotiations in 2015. This advocacy effort led to the inclusion of an obligation for nations to consider their citizen’s ‘right to health’ in the national climate and health plans submitted to the UNFCCC under the Paris climate Agreement.



Queensland Human Health and Wellbeing Climate Adaptation Plan

Our Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Wellbeing for Australia led to an invitation from the Qld Department of Environment and Science to work with the National Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research to develop a climate and health adaptation plan for the state, as part of Queensland’s Climate Adaptation Plan. *The Human Health and Wellbeing Climate Adaptation Plan*, developed following consultation with health stakeholders across the state, is the first such plan to be developed in Australia.

Your Prescription for a Healthy Life and a Healthy Planet

OUR PLANET, OUR FUTURE, OUR HEALTH

A healthy environment is essential for good health. There are many ways to reduce your environmental footprint *and* improve your health at the same time. This "prescription" will help you identify opportunities to improve your health and the climate. Which of the categories **Getting Around**, **Home**, **Food for Thought**, and **Nature** do you see as a priority area for action?

GETTING AROUND

Walking, cycling and swapping your car for alternative forms of transport can cut emissions and improve cardiovascular health and improve energy and vitality, as well as reduce air pollution.

1. How do you generally get around your neighbourhood? _____

2. Could you reduce your car travel by walking cycling or using public transport? ☐

3. Are you a frequent flyer? ☐

Are there other actions could you take in relation to Getting Around for climate and health?

HOME

Replacing fossil fuels with clean renewable energy will reduce emissions and improve health by reducing harmful pollution that causes cancers, cardiovascular and respiratory disease and developmental disorders.

1. Have you thought about switching to green power or installing renewable energy at home (or work, if applicable)? ☐

2. Could you cut your energy use by improving energy efficiency in your home? ☐

Keeping your home well insulated and shaded will reduce emissions by conserving energy and will protect you and other members of your household from extreme temperature fluctuations, as well as improving your health.

3. Does your home have wall, ceiling and floor insulation and green shading? ☐

Are there other actions could you take in relation to Home for climate and health?

CLIMATE COUNCIL:
JOINT STATEMENT ON THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF COAL IN AUSTRALIA



 CLIMATE COUNCIL  CLIMATE HEALTH ALLIANCE

Prescriptions for a Healthy Life and a Healthy Planet

CAHA’s ‘prescriptions for climate and health’ was an early initiative – a tool for health professionals to assist in identifying actions they can take to reduce their emissions and promote their own and population health at the same time. These were developed in collaboration with colleagues from Deakin University Health Nature Sustainability Research Group and Kooweerup Regional Health Service, and were launched at the 2011 Sustainable Living Festival in Melbourne, as part of a ‘Climate and Health Clinic’ developed by CAHA. The ‘prescriptions’ inspired and informed the Nossal Institute for Global Health at the University of Melbourne in developing a teaching tool within their own global health program.

Joint Statement on Coal and Health

In 2014, the Climate and Health Alliance and the Climate Council released a joint statement in response to the Inquiry report from Hazelwood coal mine fire in Victoria:

“Australia’s heavy reliance on coal for electricity generation and massive coal industry expansion present significant risks to the health of communities, families and individuals.”

This Statement was accompanied by a Briefing Paper on Coal and Health outlining the scientific health and medical literature on the impacts on health from the production of coal.

Case Study: Sustainability Victoria

Research undertaken by Sustainability Victoria with the support of CAHA shows the value within the sector and in community for our unique role.

Sustainability Victoria staff say:

“Hearing Fiona Armstrong speak at a seminar, and briefly chatting with her afterwards, greatly inspired / influenced SV’s decision to frame our state-wide follow-up climate change research around the issue of health.

“In a nutshell, CAHA greatly influenced our decision to focus on climate change through a health lens; helped connect us with the experts needed to feed into our work and give it credibility and authority; played a key role in circulating the survey among the health professionals and achieving respondent numbers that gave real reliability to the work; and, now the research is completed, CAHA is assisting to promote and spread the findings. CAHA has been with us every step of the way in relation to this important work and added value at each phase. They are just brilliant and endlessly inspiring to work with and we can’t thank them enough for their ongoing interest and active support of our climate change and health research.”

We're seeing growing
acknowledgement
for our work



In 2016 CAHA ED Fiona Armstrong was named one of '100 Women of Influence' by the Financial Review and Westpac

In 2017 Fiona was the recipient of the prestigious Tony McMichael Ecology and Environment Award from the Public Health Association of Australia

In 2018, Fiona won the Frank Fisher Award, named in honour of leading thinkers and academics in the field of climate change and health and environmental sustainability



Awards help increase
awareness of CAHA's
role in delivering health
expertise to drive positive
health action and policies
on climate change

Thank you

We have so many to thank for our first ten years

The Climate and Health Alliance began in 2010 with an income of \$3,206, very little sleep and a huge amount of goodwill and volunteer hours.


By 2020, with a budget of \$370,000, a dedicated staff of seven (4.0FTE) plus the critical support of more than ten volunteers, we were still punching above our weight, representing over 500,000 health professionals across Australia through our 45 member groups, delivering at least ten times the impact of our early years (and still getting very little sleep).

We offer particular thanks to those who have played leadership roles in Climate and Health Alliance over the years, including our Presidents: Michael Moore (2010–2011), Liz Hanna (2011–2017), Peter Sainsbury (2017–2018), and Amanda Adrian (2018–2020), and CAHA's Founder, Convenor, and now Executive Director, Fiona Armstrong.

Our members and supporter are lifeblood of the Climate and Health Alliance.

CAHA deeply appreciates the contribution of every person who has helped make our first ten years possible. From organisations, to individuals, volunteers, philanthropists and funders, donors and supporters, you are the human face of a human challenge. Your active support has been critical to the delivery of the impacts in this report, along with so many more we have not had room to highlight here!





10 years on and
the urgency is more
critical than ever

“There is increasing
global awareness
that the next
10 years must
be a period of
extensive and
rapid mitigation
and adaptation
to safeguard
humanity from
the worst harms of
the climate crisis.”

Cunsolo et al
The Lancet Planetary Report, 2020

In 2020, CAHA has upped the ante in reframing the narrative and growing awareness of climate change as a human health emergency. We have galvanised significant support from health professionals who are passionate about promoting human health and wellbeing, and who recognise that addressing climate change is fundamental to the work they do.

Our credibility has built an influential, health sector movement, nationally and internationally. We are now collaborating with sector leaders, jurisdictions and decision makers about the importance of taking urgent action on climate change – both for the risks it poses and for the benefits that strong action offers to human health. But there is so much more to do.

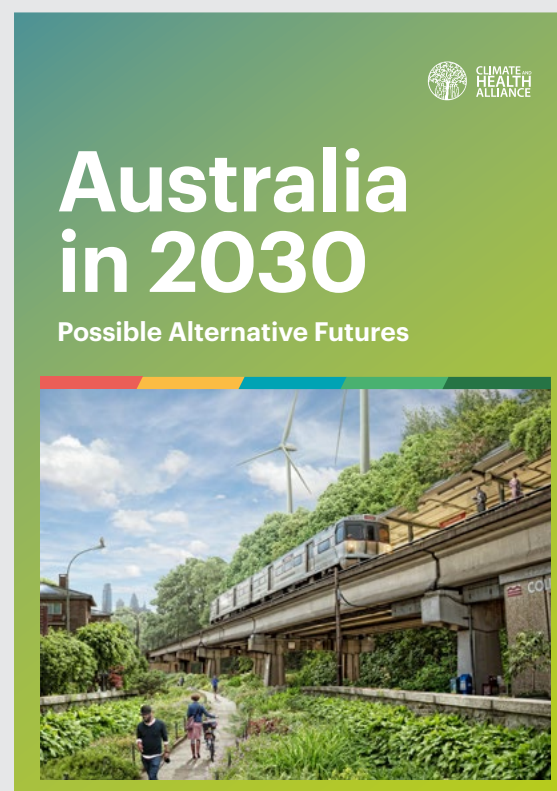
Our future success relies on continuing to connect climate and health

From 2020,
our new strategy
proposes to dial
up our impact
even further
in years ahead

In ten short years we have seen dramatic and compelling demonstrations of the health impacts of our changing climate. The evidence is only mounting. The human costs are growing. Going forward, we must scale up this work, and dial up our voices.

We are at a point where our goals are not *ambitions* – they are *must haves*. We now call on all who are able to join us, to contribute to this critical task.

This ambitious plan critically relies on our income, which is not yet secure. Membership, philanthropy and the generosity of those who recognise the vital importance of our work will determine the impact we can deliver.



We finished the decade with a forward looking project in 2020

We brought together over 100 thought leaders and futures experts to develop narrative scenarios to describe possible alternative futures for Australia in 2030.

The report *Australia in 2030* and its five scenarios (*Head in the Sand*, *Short Memory*, *Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places*, *We Can Do This*, and *Our Island Home*) describe the futures we might expect from a range of different pathways.

We then developed the *Healthy, Regenerative and Just* policy agenda as the roadmap to our preferred future, *Our Island Home*.

These scenarios inspired a supplement with the same title in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, have been the subject of a series of webinars, media articles, and are being used to inspire students to engage in futures thinking by our university partners.

We will be using this forward looking agenda to underpin our advocacy through the coming decade.

From 2020, our new strategy proposes to dial up our impact even further in years ahead

Our Mission is to build a powerful health sector movement for climate action and sustainable healthcare.

Our Theory of Change is that if the health sector leads on climate advocacy and solutions, decision-makers and the public will act, because the community cares about health and trusts health voices.



We look forward to and
welcome your support
over the next ten years.

Let's continue the action.

→ caha.org.au