



CLIMATE^{AND}
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

ANNUAL REPORT

2014-15

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REPORT FROM CAHA PRESIDENT

It is with enormous pleasure I present the 2015 Climate and Health Alliance President's report after yet another highly productive year, in which CAHA's profile surges forward in gaining recognition as a leading voice advocating for climate policies that protect human health.

It is without question that the stance of the Australian Federal Government on environmental stewardship, specifically its fondness, and indeed prioritisation of the coal industry over the health and welfare of the Australian population, protecting the integrity of our precious water supplies and prime farming land, has amplified the need for organisations such as CAHA.

Climate scientists are becoming increasingly emphatic that global warming is unprecedented, the trajectories are dire, and time is running out to salvage humanity and ecological systems upon which life depends. There is nothing more sacred or worth preserving than life itself, however corporate profits and protecting rich lifestyles are clearly taking precedence in the minds of political leaders, here and abroad.

We now have global consensus stressing that major transformation is urgently required in all of humanity's operational norms to rapidly decarbonise, not only our economies but also our lifestyles. Furthermore, we can achieve this, and without enormous sacrifice. Current technologies are now available and economically viable, and these are and improving exponentially.

The only barriers to full decarbonisation are recognition of these salient facts, and ambition to fully embrace these changes in global political, industrial and private realms. The increasingly bizarre climate patterns that are causing devastation are providing ample evidence that we are on the brink of a new world, a dangerous new world, and indications suggest that much of humanity remains trepidations to leap forward, although the step is clearly towards safety, and away from assured peril.

We must collectively take that step, if not to protect ourselves, but to guarantee a safe future for our children, and the ecological systems upon which we all survive, such as a stable climate, clean air, clean soil, water and food security, and the viability of biological diversity, such as bees.

In reflecting over the past year, we can again feel immensely proud of the standout achievements of CAHA. As the political climate elevated demand for broad dissemination of sound science to counter the flawed, and widely acknowledged anti-science messaging that humanity needs and will benefit from Australian coal, CAHA stridently rose to meet that challenge.

Our "Coal and health in the Hunter: Lessons from one valley for the world" provides, for the first time in Australia, an authoritative account of the quantified health costs directly attributed to the coal industry. The Report documents testimonials of those personally affected. These are heartfelt and real, as were the pleas from the residents living in close proximity to the Morwell coal mine fires. CAHA was active in advocating for strong public health support for the afflicted community. Australia's fossil fuel industry is destroying local communities, damaging health of many and killing some, whilst accelerating climate change. The case against coal is unequivocal, whereas the case for has been significantly overinflated, and fails on any test. Meanwhile unconventional gas is similarly destroying people's lives, including those of children, irrevocably destroying our precious and limited prime farm land, and doing untold damage to our most precious commodity, water.

A spotlight on Australia's contribution to climate change, and the local destruction it brings, is needed, and CAHA has responded on multiple levels. Our task is far from over. Whilst CAHA is not alone in this campaign, we are the only group who are advocating on behalf of a broad alliance of health care associations, and health care professionals, who are deeply concerned and collectively striving to restore a positive and healthy future – for all.

As Malcolm Turnbull takes the helm, Australia is emerging from the Abbott Prime Ministership, characterized by its internationally rebuked anti-climate change stance. CAHA welcomes the new Prime Minister's decision to attend the UNFCCC 21st Conference of the Parties in Paris. At this AGM, November 2015, we stand poised, awaiting indications of genuine policy shift to more closely align Australia with world governments that recognize the looming catastrophe of climate change, and to reverse our recent commitment to accelerate coal extraction, export and ultimate climate destruction. We are cautiously optimistic.

As CAHA President, it was pleasingly, another hectic year. I had the honour of disseminating CAHA's message regularly in the national and international media and International fora, including most recently to the Korean Environment Institute. The tight timeline resulted in my late arrival to today's meeting, for which I apologise. However, this was an important meeting as the new Chair of the IPCC is Hoesung Lee, a Korean economist, further strengthening their representation on the world stage achieved by Ban Ki Moon – Secretary General of the World Health Organisation. With a population of 50 million, double Australia's, South Korea's achievements testify that a strong nation, albeit away from the global spotlight, that shows commitment to scientific excellence and dedication to improving the future health and wellbeing of the world population, can rightfully assume global leadership. My hope is that Australia can soon be internationally regarded as a worthy choice to assume such esteemed roles. We are currently well away from that goal.

CAHA is engaging internationally, as detailed in the Executive Director's report. From the President's desk, in addition to representing CAHA in national and international fora, I was proud to also contribute to the advancement of the global understanding of human health risk, by also sharing my primary research findings on climate change health impacts and adaptation.

Informing the next generation we regard critically important – for it is their world we seek to save. In addition to my own teaching and PhD supervision at ANU, this year I was offered opportunities to contribute climate change and health education to the Australian Medical Students Association Global Academy on the Sustainable Development Goals, and secondary schools such as Canberra Grammar. Outreach is a core activity of CAHA. National conferences such as Developing Northern Australia provided me opportunity to reach an audience who were embarking on major developments, yet ignoring the health impacts of climate changes and human physiological limitations to adapt to ever increasing heat and humidity, making working in the tropics potentially lethal. During Science Week I presented to, and engaged with residents across rural and outback New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

Staying abreast of, and contributing to the science is vital for CAHA to ensure accuracy of our understanding of and representation of climate science and health risks to health professionals. It is clear that heat exposure presents the most significant climate health threat for Australians. The National Heatwave Workshop hosted by UNSW brings together climate scientists, the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), and Australia's leading multi-disciplinary climate change adaption researchers from diverse fields of marine heat wave analysts, ecology, agriculture, and myself discussing local and international research on human health heat risks. This important annual meeting shares latest research on trends and projections, and implications of increasing heat in Australia. It helps guide the BoM develop new products we need to monitor climate anomalies and impact trends we need to inform policy and protect health. CAHA's voice is central to these discussions as all recognise that protecting human health underpins the ultimate significance of all their efforts.

CAHA is a strong. Our executive team includes a breadth of senior policy makers and researchers around Australia, who are equally capable of disseminating CAHA's message, with their credibility of their own expertise involvement in either advancing climate adaptation, or translating this into policy. We particularly welcome the addition of the role of Vice President, and we relish our coup in recruiting Prof Peter Sainsbury to this role. Peter's extensive in career public health leadership, across the spectrum of NGO advocacy, academia, policy making and public administration and philanthropy is an exceptional skill based for this organisation. CAHA recently welcomed four new Board Members, adding further strength to our governance team, helping to ensure CAHA is well-placed to continue its leadership role in tackling current challenges and ardent advocacy for human health.

My closing, and possibly most important remarks must be dedicated to acknowledging the tireless efforts of Fiona Armstrong, who has heralded this group from inception. Her own knowledge and understanding of the health issues has grown exponentially during her reign as Convenor, now Executive Director, as she is increasingly recognised for her excellent articulation of the key concepts, no doubt based on her journalistic skills. But her skills do not stop at explaining the problems and their causes, the strength she brings to CAHA lie in her exceptional and unique talents in networking and collaboration building. Fiona makes things happen.

It is no exaggeration that CAHA would struggle to maintain its efficacy without her. On behalf of the Executive team, and all members of CAHA, I thank Fiona. We all stood shocked and united in our deep concern when her deep commitment to CAHA translated to a serious risk to her own physical health. Reluctant to slow down, her body forced her to. Vice President Peter Sainsbury and I struggled to step up to maintain CAHA's normal operations in her absence, whilst managing the demands of our busy full time day careers. Fiona is without doubt, CAHA's stalwart. Hence, after this alarming wake up call, a risk management approach is necessitated. Our mission is to attempt to secure a sustainable platform for CAHA to continue its existing success, and to expand our impact by identifying a secure funding stream to employ staff to assume some of the tasks performed voluntarily – and expertly – by Fiona.

Our new, and invigorated team is strong. Our past performance has exceed all expectations, but the urgency of the task at hand cannot let us rest. The UNFCCC 20th Paris COP has been dealt a blow from left field, which shall not dampen the collective resolve to push for a cleaner and healthier future. We have a busy year ahead, and we welcome all hands on deck to assist in our mission inform all Australians of the risks and health threats posed by climate change and strategies we need to adopt to prevent an unhappy future. A core task is to decarbonise Australia, hence our focus on reversing Australia's reliance on coal. We look forward to members' continued input into how we can remain potent in our cause.

To all, feel strong, and be brave. Together, we can make this happen! We welcome your input and assistance, as this is everyone's problem, and everyone is part of the solution.

Dr Liz Hanna, 19th November 2015

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year's CAHA Annual Report again reflects a busy year of important engagement with health professionals and students, media, policymakers and politicians and the wider community on the issue of climate change and health.

CAHA is pleased to welcome Professor John Wiseman from Melbourne Sustainable Societies Institute to its Expert Advisory Committee, and new board members Terrona Ramsay from Kooverup Regional Health Service and Peter Malouf from Australian Health Promotion Association in the coming financial year.

CAHA produced some important publications this year, in particular the ***Coal and Health in the Hunter*** report which attracted considerable media attention and helped influence the media narrative during the 2015 NSW election campaign, making coal a key election issue. This built on the Health and Energy Choices Position Paper and Background Paper released in late 2014, forming the most comprehensive position on the health risks associated with current energy policy to be articulated in Australia, and possibly internationally.

CAHA contributed several submissions to government inquiries and consultations, perhaps most significantly on emissions reduction targets to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, calling for emissions reductions as quickly as possible to negative net emissions by 2050.

CAHA built on its already strong alliances and partnerships with others in 2014/15, participating in a national climate movement strategy project with Climate Action Network Australia, working with Health Care Without Harm on several projects, as well as with the Global Climate and Health Alliance. The growth in the Pacific region of the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network has been pleasing and the appointment of Chris Hill as CAHA Sustainable Healthcare Project Officer a boon to this work.

Several successful events were held by CAHA, including a joint Seminar with the University of NSW and the annual Greening the Healthcare Sector Think Tank at Mater Hospital in Brisbane. A telephone survey of CAHA members provided valuable insights into the concerns of members, and revealed very high satisfaction among members regarding CAHA's performance.

CAHA representatives and experts proved in high demand for media, conferences and events, demonstrating the increasing awareness of climate change as a health issue.

The next year offers an opportunity for CAHA to begin to build on its strengths with a campaign in development for a national response on climate change and health – watch this space!

Fiona Armstrong, 19th November 2015

GOVERNANCE

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT (CAHA BOARD)

The CAHA Committee of Management (CoM) 2014-15 included:



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



Fiona Armstrong, CAHA Executive Director



Dr Brad Farrant (Independent Director)



Dr Bret Hart (Alliance for Future Health)



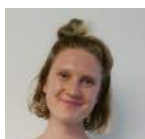
Dr Peter Sainsbury (Public Health Association of Australia)



Dr Elizabeth Haworth (Friends of CAHA)



Alice McGushin (Australian Medical Students Association)



Grace Fitzgerald (Australian Medical Students Association)

EXPERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CAHA's Expert Advisory Committee is a highly credentialled 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.

Members of the CAHA Expert Advisory Committee:

- Associate Professor Grant Blashki, Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne
- 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
- Professor Simon Chapman, Professor of Public Health, University of Sydney
- Dr Susie Burke, Public Interest, Environment & Disaster Response, Australian Psychological Society
- Professor Colin Butler, College of Medicine, Biology and Environment, Australian National University
- Professor Garry Egger, School of Health & Human Sciences, Southern Cross University
- Professor John Wiseman, Melbourne Sustainable Societies Institute

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 were twenty-eight organisational members of the Climate and Health Alliance in 2014/15, representing health care professionals from a range of disciplines, health care service providers, institutions, academics, researchers and consumers.

List of Members:

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 and Midwifery Federation (ANMF)
 Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA)

Australian Psychological Society (APS)
 Australian Rural Health Education Network (ARHEN)
 CRANApplus
 Doctors Reform Society (DRS)
 Friends of CAHA
 Health Consumers' Network (Qld)
 Health Issues Centre (HIC)
 Koowerup Regional Health Service (KRHS)
 Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA)
 Psychology for a Safe Climate (PSC)
 Cohealth (formerly North Yarra Community Health)
 School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW (SPHCM)
 Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH)
 Women's Health East (WHE)
 Women's Health in the North (WHIN)
 World Vision Australia

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.

PUBLICATIONS

CAHA produced the following publications and reports in FY 2014-15:

[The health sector as a leader in low carbon transformation: Report from Greening the Healthcare Sector Think Tank](#) - October 2014

This report captured the Think Tank discussion by health sector stakeholders about accelerating progress towards sustainable healthcare and hospital practices. It identifies key findings, common factors to support success, and top challenges identified by participants. Participants identified actions they would take following the Think Tank, and pointed to actions CAHA and AHHA could undertake to support that work.

The health sector as a leader in low carbon transformation



A discussion by the health sector about accelerating progress towards sustainable healthcare and hospital practices

[Health and Energy Choices](#) – November 2014

CAHA led the development of this Joint Position Paper and Background Paper on **Health and Energy Choices** on behalf of these health groups: the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF), National Toxics Network (NTN), Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH), Australian Medical Students Association (AMSA), Women's Health East (WHE) and CAHA.

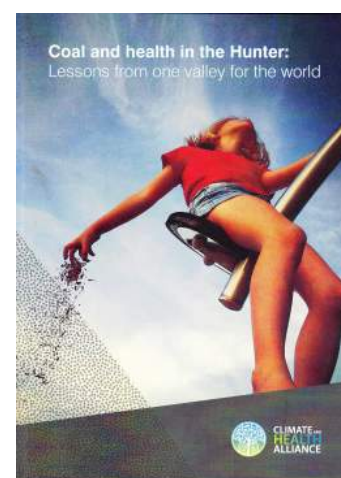


[Coal and Health in the Hunter: Lessons from One Valley for the World](#) – February 2015

Coal and Health in the Hunter: Lessons from one valley for the world, provides an insight into the evidence of the harm – local, national, and global – from coal production in the Hunter Valley in New South Wales, Australia.

It reveals there is serious adverse impacts to physical and psychological health associated with coal mining, transportation and production, and estimates there is millions of dollars in health damages associated with air pollution from coal sources in the Hunter and billions of dollars per annum associated with the social costs of carbon from Hunter Valley coal.

To download the full Report, Recommendations for Action, Summary for Policymakers, Case Studies, Infographics and Videos – see <http://caha.org.au/projects/hunter-coal/> and www.coalandhealth.org



SUBMISSIONS

Advocacy for policy has this year been focused on defending climate and environment policy and renewable energy, with strong calls for health to be recognised in the development of energy and climate policy.

A list of the CAHA submissions made in 2014/15 appears below:

[Submission to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet UNFCCC Taskforce on Australia's Post 2020 Emissions Reductions Targets – May 2015](#)

[Submission to Australian Environment Ministers in response to Discussion Paper: 'Working towards a National Clean Air Agreement' – April 2015](#)

[Submission to Senate Inquiry into Wind Turbines – March 2015](#)

[Joint Submission to Climate Change Authority Special Review – March 2015](#)

[Submission to Energy White Paper – October 2014](#)

PARTNERSHIPS, NETWORKS AND ALLIANCES

CAHA is a member of a number of networks and alliances that share environmental, climate and health concerns. Since its establishment in 2010, CAHA has developed a strong and positive reputation nationally and internationally, and has inspired the establishment of at least two other Climate and Health Alliances – in [the US](#) and the UK. CAHA has links and affiliations with many national and international groups. CAHA is a member of [Climate Action Network Australia](#); and has strong relationships with many environmental and community groups. CAHA is a founding member of the [Global Climate and Health Alliance](#), an affiliate and strategic partner of [Health Care Without Harm](#), and Australian partner of the global [Healthy Energy Initiative](#).

The Climate and Health Alliance has an ongoing strategic partnership with the international non-government organization Health Care Without Harm. HCWH has 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.

Climate Action Network Australia

CAHA is an active member of the Climate Action Network of Australia (CANA). CANA is a network of organisations that work together to protect and enhance the natural environment as a part of building a fair and sustainable Australia. CANA members campaign together to “shift the politics, economics, and culture on climate in order to accelerate the energy revolution and increase Australia's resilience in the face of the climate crisis”. Members include large environmental and progressive NGOs, local grassroots action groups, unions, health, faith, and Indigenous first nations organisations.

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.

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.

GCHA 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



Visit the GCHA website: <http://www.climateandhealthalliance.org/>

During 2014/15, CAHA worked with the Global Climate and Health Alliance to promote the health findings of the Fifth Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, and participated in the development and promotion of a [GCHA briefing report, film and series of infographics to explain the health implications of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Working Group II report](#).

CAHA President Dr Liz Hanna was a keynote speaker at the GCHA Global Climate and Health Summit in Warsaw in December 2014.

PROJECTS

Global Green and Healthy Hospitals and the Healthy Energy Initiative

Key joint projects between CAHA and HCWH include the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) network and the Healthy Energy Initiative. CAHA is the regional coordinator of the Pacific region of the GGHH network (including Australia and New Zealand) and works to promote the network, recruit hospitals and health services to the global network and support regional members in implementing their sustainable healthcare initiatives.



Health Care Without Harm provided a grant to CAHA in 2014 and 2015 to support its work in promoting the [Global Green and Healthy Hospitals](http://www.greenhospitals.net) (GGHH) and advocacy for climate action.

There has been exciting growth in the membership of the Pacific network (Australia and New Zealand) of the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network in the last year. Together with our international partner, Health Care Without Harm, and national partner, Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, CAHA is working to promote the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network to Australian healthcare service providers and health organisations to help build the global network.



The appointment of Chris Hill as a Sustainable Healthcare Project officer for two days per week has assisted CAHA to engage with a variety of healthcare institutions and the network has now grown to include the following members representing nearly 700 health facilities.

GGHH Pacific region members

Australian members

- Austin Health Service
- Hepburn Health Service
- Kooweerup Regional Health Service
- Mater Health Services Brisbane Limited
- Northern Health Service
- South Western Sydney Local Health District
- St Vincent's Health Australia
- UnitingCare Community
- Uniting Care Health

- Western Health
- Western Sydney Local Health District
- Women's and Children's Health Network
- Australian Nursing and Midwifery Association
- New South Wales Nurses and Midwives Association

New Zealand members

- Auckland District Health Group
- Counties Manukau Health
- Waitemata District Health Board

GGHH Pacific Region Network achievements

There have been a number of common themes achieved by these members including:

- Waste – recycling / management
- Engagement – Executive through to Staff and community in a variety of methods
- Reporting – through the organization / measuring what is consumed
- Infrastructure – solar / energy efficiencies / design /water (rainwater)
- Cost savings – Energy
- Fleet reductions – sharing / software
- Procurement – sustainability principles / reuse / elimination of single use
- Sharing / Networking with others

There are also a number of common projects currently being investigated and implemented such as:

- Workplace giving / offset program / community links
- Recycling
- Energy - Lighting / de-lamping / PFC / monitoring / contracts / solar /voltage optimisation /HVAC upgrades
- St Vincent's Health Australia – National Energy Action Plan: a potential template for others (40% reduction)
- Education / awareness
- Communication
- Water reduction – sterilizers
- Food waste reduction / community gardens
- Foam cup ban

Case studies have also been forthcoming as these institutions share their successes with other GGHH members. These include:

- Northern Health – Assessing awareness of Environmental Sustainability among staff
- Austin Health – Implementation of an Environmental Management Strategy
- Mater Health Services – Development of an Environmental Sustainability pledge, promotion of KeepCups
- Counties Manakau Health – Communication and Engagement
- Austin – Waste Management
- Mater Health Services – Room service, Paper reduction, KeepCups, Energy, Car Park lighting, Transportation, Fleet reduction, Food, Room service, Purchasing, Paper reduction

Climate Resilience Standard for Healthcare

A Working Group led by CAHA also submitted a Proposed Draft Standard on climate resilience to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) for consideration for inclusion in new standards (a review is underway in 2015). The proposed draft standard and background paper are available at:
www.caha.org.au/projects/greenhealthcare

Healthy Energy Initiative

HCWH and CAHA are also working collaboratively on projects related to climate, energy and health. Through the [Healthy Energy Initiative](#), CAHA works with a group of national partners in several countries, as well as in Europe. Like CAHA, these organisations work closely with local and national health organizations and academics to support healthy energy policies.



Other members of the Healthy Energy Initiative include:

[China: Rock Environment & Energy Institute](#)

[Europe: Health and Environment Alliance](#)

[India: Community Environmental Monitoring](#)

[Philippines: Health Care Without Harm – Asia](#)

[South Africa: groundWork](#)

[Global Climate and Health Alliance](#)
[Climate and Clean Air Coalition](#)

The Human Cost of Power

CAHA continues to promote and distribute the short film, *The Human Cost of Power*, made in partnership with the Public Health Association of Australia.

The film has been distributed to public health and medical schools across Australia as a teaching tool, and has screened in many venues nationally and internationally. In 2015, screenings included at the World Congress of Public Health in Kolkata in India, at the Swanpool Cinema in regional Victoria, and will feature in a film festival to be held during COP21, the United Nations Convention on Climate Change negotiations, in Paris in December 2015.



EVENTS

CAHA held two public events in 2014/15: its third annual **Greening the Healthcare Sector Think Tank** (in partnership with Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association) and a public **Seminar: Protecting Health from Climate Change** (in partnership with University of NSW, School of Public Health and Community Medicine).

Greening the Healthcare Sector Think Tank

CAHA, together with partner Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, held their third joint annual CAHA and AHHA Greening the Healthcare Sector Think Tank in October 2014. The event was hosted by GGHH member Mater Hospital in Brisbane, with the support of Mater Sustainability Director Chris Hill.

The event brought together around 30 participants from 25 organisations including hospitals, health care services and peak bodies, state government health departments, professional associations, universities and advocacy groups. An evaluation of the event revealed extremely positive responses, with all respondents either satisfied or extremely satisfied with the venue, facilitation, discussions and presentations.



Download the Think Tank report [here](#).

Public Seminar – *Protecting Health from Climate Change: What's Needed*

CAHA's Annual Public Seminar was hosted in November 2014 by its member, the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at the University of New South Wales. A great line-up of expert speakers revealed the extent to which the health of local and global communities is increasingly threatened by climate change, as well as insight into the policy shortfalls, technological and political solutions and the role of divestment in limiting national and global emissions.

Speakers included (click on each name for a link to a video of their presentation):

[Professor Lesley Hughes, Climate Council, 2014](#)

[Eureka Prize winner for Promoting Understanding of Australian Science Research](#) on the latest climate science and implications for human health;

[Associate Professor Melissa Haswell, School of Public Health & Community Medicine, UNSW](#) on re-aligning our relationship with the environment in policy and decision making;

[Professor Mark Diesendorf, Deputy Director, Institute of Environment Studies, UNSW](#) Replacing fossil fuels with renewables – what's possible;

[Trevor Thomas, Ethinvest](#) on strategies to constrain growth in emissions – Divestment; and

[Professor Peter Sainsbury, Director, Population Health, South-western Sydney Local Health](#)

[District](#) reported back from the 2014 WHO Health and Climate Conference in Geneva and 2014 UN Climate Summit in New York.



Lobbying Day to NSW Parliament

A CAHA delegation with representatives from four CAHA member groups visited politicians and policymakers at Parliament House in Sydney in August to highlight concerns and recommendations about coal and health raised in CAHA's 2015 Coal and Health in the Hunter report.

Attendees included Public Health Association of Australia (NSW President Jude Page), University of New South Wales School of Public Health and Community Medicine (Associate Professor Melissa Haswell), New South Wales Nurses and Midwives Association (Professional Officer Janet Roden), and Australian Medical Student Association (Amanda Zhou).

Meetings were held with Shadow Minister for the Hunter, Jodie Harrison, Greens Environment spokesperson, Mahreen Faruqi, Member for Newcastle Tim Crakanthorp, and Chief Health Officer, Kerry Chant.

CAMPAIGNS

National Strategy for Climate and Health

There are many benefits to health, as well as climate benefits, from cutting emissions. But there is currently no national strategy to address the impacts on health.

CAHA's campaign *Let's get a National Strategy on Climate and Health in Australia* enables people to send a letter to their representatives in the federal parliament and ask them to commit to supporting the development of a national strategy on climate and health.



G20: Don't let the coal industry determine our future

In response to the [coal industry's claims](#) during the G20 that coal is needed to address energy poverty in the developing world, CAHA led a campaign encouraging health and medical professionals writing to media as well as their local MPs expressing concerns about the unfettered expansion of coal in Australia and the risks it poses to people's health and the climate.

PRESENTATIONS

CAHA representatives were invited to present at the following events/conferences in the year 2014-15:

- [Nexus: Global Gathering on Climate, Environmental Health & Justice 2014](#) – October 2014

CAHA Executive Director Fiona Armstrong was invited to attend Nexus 2014, a high-level global convening of leaders of grassroots non-governmental organizations focused on strengthening collaboration and strategies in global environmental health and justice advocacy.

The convening, held in California, focused on the nexus of environmental health and justice work with efforts on climate justice, adaptation and mitigation.

➤ **NCCARF Climate Adaptation Conference 2014** – September 2014

Fiona Armstrong presented to this conference on Global Green and Healthy Hospitals: as an example of a collaborative global social network supporting healthcare's response to climate risk.

➤ **Siti Medicollect Workshop** – October 2014

Fiona Armstrong presented on the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network at this workshop in Perth exploring innovation and ideas in sustainable healthcare waste management.

➤ **Launch of Livewell Yarra** – March 2015

Livewell Clusters is an action research project initiated by Curtin University, supported by the City of Yarra and Yarra Energy Foundation, and funded by the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Low Carbon Living.

➤ **Responsible Investment Association of Australia field trip** – May 2015

CAHA Executive Director Fiona Armstrong addressed a group of institutional investors touring the Hunter Valley to provide insights from health regarding risks and challenges associated with large-scale resources projects across Australia.

➤ **ALP National Conference Climate and Clean Energy Rally** – July 2015

Fiona Armstrong addressed this rally - watch the [video on the CAHA YouTube Channel](#)

➤ **Services for Rural and Remote Health (SARRAH) National Conference** – October 2014

Fiona Armstrong presented to this national conference on: *Climate change, energy choices and health: implications for rural and remote communities*

➤ **Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand**

Fiona Armstrong presented to this conference on the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network.

➤ **Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (Vic branch) Health and Environment Conference**

Fiona Armstrong presented to this conference of over 400 nurses and midwives on CAHA Health and Energy policy work with a presentation entitled: 'Power Money and Morals'.

➤ **WHO Conference on Health and Climate in Geneva** – August 2014

➤ **United Nations Secretary General Climate Summit in New York** – September 2014

CAHA President Dr Liz Hanna attended the UN Climate Summit, along with Vice President Dr Peter Sainsbury, who also attended the WHO Conference on Health and Climate.

COMMUNICATIONS

NEWSLETTER

CAHA's newsletter subscriber list continues to grow with over 1200 subscribers to CAHA's two regular newsletters – on climate and health and sustainable healthcare. See the links below for 2014-15 issues:

15/10/2015 - [Latest Sustainable Healthcare News](#)

28/08/2015 - [Latest news on climate and health](#)

24/06/2015 - [2015 Lancet Commission on Health and Climate](#)

22/10/2014 - [Latest news on climate and health](#)

14/08/2014 - [Latest news on climate and health](#)

MEDIA

CAHA contributes to greater public awareness of climate change and health through its communications and advocacy for policy.

In 2014-15, CAHA has highlighted concerns regarding the repeal of the carbon price and the refusal of the Australian Prime Minister to attend the UN climate change talks; promoted the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report; called for the G20 to commit to a global phase out of coal, for a moratorium on new coal in NSW; welcomed the commitments on climate and health from the Obama administration; and highlighted the important 2015 Lancet Commission on Health and Climate.

22 June 2015

[**The Lancet: Landmark new medical research highlights opportunities for better health from strong climate action**](#)

4 May 2015

[**Health groups call for tough emissions cuts with no new coal-mines and coal power closure**](#)

10 April 2015

[**Obama proclamation on climate change and health puts Australia on notice**](#)

2 April 2015

[**Health groups call for coal and health inquiry in light of new pollution data**](#)

23 February 2015

[Health leaders call on NSW Premier to ban new coal mines in Hunter](#)

3 December 2014

[Climate disruption is underway: Australia's obstruction on policy putting lives at risk](#)

14 November 2014

[As G20 gets underway, leading health bodies declare Australia's reliance on coal dangerous for health](#)

3 November 2014

[Avoiding further global warming can be done cheaply and will improve health](#)

13 October 2014

[Health care sector explores pathways to low carbon operations](#)

24 September 2014

[Abbott refusal to attend UN Climate Summit a risk to national interest: health and medical leaders](#)

7 July 2014

[Senators urged to vote against repeal: a carbon price is good for health](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

CAHA's social media presence continues to grow with almost 1500 followers on Twitter, with social media analytics suggesting @healthy_climate occupies an "influential" status.

CAHA over 1000 'likes' on its Facebook page and CAHA's Facebook posts reach around 200-400 people each week.

VOLUNTEERS

CAHA is very fortunate to have the support of some generous volunteers. Committed volunteers in 2014-15 include Caitlin Rawding who assisted with database management, website, and publications on a regular basis, Sarah Dickie and Malley Hearps who have supported CAHA database management and administration, and Lyn Moss, who assumed responsibility for CAHA's financial accounting and bookkeeping.

CAHA MEMBER SURVEY

A telephone survey was conducted with CAHA Members during the early part of 2015 regarding member concerns about climate change and health, priorities for action, and feedback on CAHA's strategic directions and work.

The main themes of these discussions are provided below:

- **Climate change and health: concerns and challenges for members**
 - **Main organisational concerns** – direct impact on the health sector, government inaction, lack of engagement at policy level, mental health impacts, greater effect on women's health, impact on rural and remote communities, general impact on those most vulnerable in society, engagement and understanding of link between health and climate change not widespread amongst members of the organisation, lack of awareness of the link between climate and health in the broader community, preparing the public health and medical workforce for the challenges to be faced.
 - **Main challenges faced by members** – responding to health impacts and increase in psychological disorders related to severe weather events, crisis recovery, constrained by lack of effective policy, vulnerability of rural communities and food insecurity, treating anxiety issues around impacts of climate change, lack of funding for research into climate and health.
 - **Anticipated future challenges** – exacerbation of challenges already faced, impacts of increased extreme weather events and disasters, displacement of communities, greater impact on indigenous communities, increasing pressure on the health system including; difficulties of workforce dealing with constant change, increased demands on services, increased energy costs, added pressure of an older population. Increasing pressures on agriculture and food systems.
 - **Concerns regarding these challenges** – government inaction, women and children's health, future of rural and remote communities, lack of awareness of link between climate and health, impact of extreme weather and disasters
- **Achieving effective action on climate change – what's required?**
 - Transition to a zero carbon economy with effective action from industry and business, policies that recognise the impacts of climate change on health, changing the conversation in Australia/creating consensus, education on the effects of climate change on health, enforceable approach to reduction of emissions and incentives for renewable energy, a commitment to limiting warming to two degrees, eliminate left/right divide on issue, facilitating collaboration between peak bodies and disseminating evidence.

➤ **How can CAHA members work together to achieve their goals?**

- Taking health voices directly to policymakers; call on members to lobby politicians; provide more briefings on key policy issues; encourage organisations to engage their members; support members to establish 'communities of interest'; making evidence accessible – developing more resources specifically for health professionals on climate change; engage with state and local governments.

➤ **Benefits of membership of CAHA**

- Provides members with credibility on climate and health issues; being a key source of information on climate and health issues; access to topic experts and advice; enables us to stay updated; provides opportunities to be signatories to key statements; allows an expression of organisational values around collaboration; network, information sharing and collective advocacy is important; allows us to feel part of something bigger; providing a united voice for health.

REPORT FROM CAHA TREASURER

The financial report for Climate and Health Alliance 2014/15 (attached) demonstrates total income for the year of \$76,433.41c and total expenditure of \$58,333.77c, leaving a net profit for the financial year of \$18,099.84c.

The vast majority of the income was provided by Health Care Without Harm (almost \$60,000) to fund our work promoting the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals program across Australia. Much smaller but still significant amounts of income were derived from donations (approximately \$10,800) and membership fees (\$3,260).

The major item of expenditure (just over \$28,000) was payments to consultants for work on the development of various reports that CAHA produced. Promotion of the reports and release of press statements in response to emergent issues accounted for just over \$8,000. Travel and accommodation cost just under \$3,700. This principally relates to the Executive Director representing and speaking on behalf of CAHA at conferences and meetings with, for instance, politicians, policy makers, other health and environmental organisations, and community groups. The almost \$11,000 spent on 'Materials' relates to expenses incurred developing and promoting the Hunter Coal project.

It should be noted that the net profit does not represent 'profit' in the commonly understood meaning of the word. Much of this money is committed for expenditure during the 2015/16 financial year for the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals program, and consultant expenses for the Hunter Coal report.

At 30 June 2015 CAHA had total assets, in Westpac accounts, of \$85,738, with no liabilities.

During the financial year Bret Hart resigned as Treasurer and from the Committee of Management to allow himself time to concentrate on other voluntary activities. I wish to extend my thanks to Bret for the work he performed on CAHA's finances. On Bret's resignation, I was appointed Treasurer by the Committee of Management.

I would also like to record my gratitude to Lyn Moss, our volunteer book keeper who has carefully maintained our accounts throughout the year.

Finally, my greatest gratitude is owed to Fiona Armstrong, our Executive Director, without whose energy, ideas and commitment CAHA would be totally unable to develop and implement strategies and plans for tackling climate change and ensure that appropriate attention is paid to the day to day details of running a relatively small but disproportionately complex, productive and influential organisation.

Peter Sainsbury

Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORTS

CLIMATE AND HEALTH ALLIANCE INCORPORATED

ABN: 75 260 386 455

Balance Sheet				
Climate and Health Alliance				
As at 30 June 2015				
Asset				
Westpac - General Acc 187549				\$83,293.00
Westpac - Health Future Funds				\$2,445.00
				\$85,738.00
Liability				
Current Liabilities				\$0.00
Total Liabilities				\$0.00
Net Assets				\$85,738.00
Equity				
Current year earnings				\$18,100.00
Retained earnings				\$67,638.00
Total Equity				\$85,738.00

Profit & Loss				
Climate and Health Alliance				
Cash Basis: 1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015				
Income				
Membership				\$3,260.00
Donations				\$10,810.42
Other Income				\$2,530.00
Interest Received				\$201.36
HCWH Funding				\$59,631.63
				\$76,433.41
Less Expenses				
Bank Charges				\$25.00
Consultants				\$28,200.00

Insurance			\$1,359.34
Media			\$8,150.00
Miscellaneous Expenses			\$264.00
Postage			\$224.25
Printing & Stationery			\$3,351.00
Subscriptions			\$170.65
Travel & Accommodation			\$3,681.00
Website Maintenance			\$2,284.50
Materials			\$10,623.83
			\$58,333.57
Net Profit		\$18,099.84	