



CLIMATE<sub>AND</sub>  
HEALTH  
ALLIANCE

# Annual Report

## 2018-19

[caha.org.au](http://caha.org.au)

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# Introduction

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CAHA is widely recognised as the national peak body and leading non-government organisation (NGO) working on climate change and health in Australia. Over 30 organisations – national professional associations (representing practitioner of public health, medicine, nursing, midwifery, health promotion, psychology, social work, and rural health), along with unions, peak health bodies, healthcare service providers, leading research and academic institutions, and health consumer networks – are members of CAHA.

CAHA's mission is to build a powerful health sector movement for climate action.

Our goal is for the health sector to play a lead role in restoring a safe climate, and an ecologically sustainable, just and healthy world.

CAHA works with a wide range of stakeholders, including its network of members, the wider healthcare sector, as well as government and industry. CAHA's networks extend to every state and territory in Australia, and around the world, through its partnership with international NGO Health Care Without Harm, membership of Global Climate and Health Alliance, and participation in the World Health Organization Working Group for Action on Health and Climate.

Core initiatives for CAHA in 2018-19 were leading the Our Climate Our Health campaign for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being, particularly in the lead up to the federal election, and growing and supporting the Australian and New Zealand network of Green and Healthy Hospitals. Both programs have secured widespread support and seen rapid growth in the participation and engagement of organisations and individuals in advocating for policy and taking steps to reduce the carbon and environmental footprint of healthcare.

## Governance

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### CAHA Board (a.k.a. Committee of Management) of 2018-19



**Amanda Adrian**  
President



**Dr Rebecca Patrick**  
Vice President



**Kim Daire**  
Treasurer



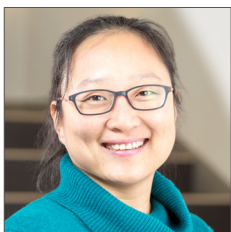
**John Ryan**  
Deputy Treasurer



**Sarah Stewart**  
Secretary



**Fiona Armstrong**  
Executive Director



**Dr Ying Zhang**



**Dr Jo Walker**



**Katherine Middleton**



**Ingrid Johnston**



**Professor Lucie  
Rychetnik**  
Friends of CAHA

## Expert Advisory Committee

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CAHA's Expert Advisory Committee is a highly credentialled group of experts who provide a valuable service, sharing their expertise to ensure CAHA public statements and published papers are credible and 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
- ▶ Dr Susie Burke, Public Interest, Environment & Disaster Response, Australian Psychological Society
- ▶ Professor Colin Butler, College of Medicine, Biology and Environment, Australian National University
- ▶ Professor Tony Capon, Director, Sustainable Development Institute, Monash University
- ▶ Professor David Karoly, Leader, Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub National Environmental Science Program, CSIRO
- ▶ Professor Stephan Lewandowsky, School of Psychology, University of Western Australia
- ▶ Professor Garry Egger, School of Health & Human Sciences, Southern Cross University
- ▶ Dr Peter Tait, Convenor, Ecology and Environment Special Interest Group, Public Health Association of Australia
- ▶ 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.

## Staff

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CAHA is extremely lucky to have had a dynamic and committed team of staff working on its projects and campaigns. During 2018-19 this included:

- ▶ Fiona Armstrong, Executive Director
- ▶ Libby Muir, Programs and Campaigns Manager
- ▶ Paul Benson, Campaign Organiser (July 2018 - December 2018)
- ▶ Alice Eggleston, Campaign Organiser (commenced February 2019)
- ▶ Milly Burgess, Administrator and Volunteer Coordinator
- ▶ Tricia Middel, Book Keeper
- ▶ Nicole Sleeman, Federal Election Campaign Organiser
- ▶ Sue Cooke, Project Consultant

All staff were engaged on a part-time basis, with total hours approximately 2.5FTE.

# Members

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During 2018-19, CAHA welcomed 5 new organisations as members including: Abilita, Australasian Epidemiological Association, Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, and Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union.

## Current Members

1. [Abilita](#)
2. [Australian Association of Social Workers \(AASW\)](#)
3. [Australian College of Nursing \(ACN\)](#)
4. [Australian Council of Social Service \(ACOSS\)](#)
5. [Australasian Epidemiological Association \(AEA\)](#)
6. [Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association \(AHHA\)](#)
7. [Australian Health Promotion Association \(AHPA\)](#)
8. [Australian Institute of Health Innovation \(AIHI\)](#)
9. [Australian Women's Health Network \(AWHN\)](#)
10. [Australian Medical Students' Association \(AMSA\)](#)
11. [Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation \(ANMF\)](#)
12. [Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association \(APNA\)](#)
13. [Australian Psychological Society \(APS\)](#)
14. [cohealth](#)
15. [CRANApplus](#)
16. [Doctors Reform Society \(DRS\)](#)
17. Friends of CAHA
18. [Healthy Futures](#)
19. [Health Issues Centre \(HIC\)](#)
20. [Health Nature Sustainability Research Group \(HNSRG\)](#)
21. [Health Services Union \(HSU\)](#)
22. [Koowrup Regional Health Service \(KRHS\)](#)
23. [Medical Scientists Association of Victoria \(MSAV\)](#)
24. [Pharmacists for the Environment Australia \(PEA\)](#)
25. [Public Health Association of Australia \(PHAA\)](#)
26. [Psychology for a Safe Climate \(PSC\)](#)
27. [Royal Australasian College of Physicians \(RACP\)](#)
28. [Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union \(QNMU\)](#)
29. [School of Public Health and Social Work, Queensland University of Technology](#)
30. [School of Public Health, University of Sydney](#)
31. [Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health \(SARRAH\)](#)
32. [Victorian Allied Health Professionals Association \(VAHPA\)](#)
33. [Women's Health East \(WHE\)](#)
34. [Women's Health in the North \(WHIN\)](#)

The organisation 'Friends of CAHA' is for individuals. Membership is open to any individual who supports CAHA's Aims and Objectives.

CAHA thanks all our organisational and individual members for their ongoing support and contribution to this work.

## President's Report

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CAHA is heading towards a decade of remarkable contributions to the advocacy and teaching of the health impacts of climate change in our communities – both in Australia and internationally. Equally, CAHA is helping raise consciousness and promote activism through communicating the co-benefits for health of climate action.

As a relatively small non-government, not-for-profit organisation, CAHA continues to 'punch well above its weight'. Without strong Australian Government policy, strategy and leadership in the area of climate change and health, CAHA has expanded its focus and is achieving gains through other means. CAHA is increasingly having success working at the State and Territory level, with the Governments of Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia and the ACT showing leadership in instigating strategic initiatives around health and climate change. This has been evident in the many hospitals and health services from both public and private sector, along with health departments, embracing of the opportunities offered by Global Green and Healthy Hospitals in making real change to the practices of individual health services across the 10 goals of leadership, chemicals, waste, energy, water, transportation, food, pharmaceuticals, buildings and purchasing.

This achievement is an extraordinary testament to the work of Fiona Armstrong, Founder and Executive Director of CAHA and her small but very capable team, Libby, Alice, Milly, Tricia (and now Carol and Adam). Sadly, Libby Muir has now left us. However, her contribution while she was at CAHA was enormous.

The Board, Board Committees, staff and stakeholders watch CAHA evolve and show increasing signs of maturity, with outstanding growth and development. CAHA earns great respect for the constancy and quality of its contributions in bringing attention to and offering solutions in this time of international crisis; yet with minimal resources. That said, it is only with the continued commitment and hard work of everyone involved that we are what we are today. I thank all those involved and acknowledge the ongoing dedication and belief in the purpose and integrity of CAHA.

A notable achievement of this past year was the gradual growth of CAHA membership, both organisational and individuals. This enables CAHA to have the strong and respected voice it does, representing so many collective and individual health professionals, academics and those passionate about health, the environment and sustainability.

As the climate change and health evidence grows more alarming, it is heartening to know that increasing numbers in our community are 'getting it' and are prepared to take action. The rise of the youth voice and activism within the community generally remind us of the grassroots campaigns to end slavery, to give women the vote, end apartheid and the Vietnam War. The challenge is that achieving our goal is urgent!

And finally, to governance. I thank the members of CAHA's Board for their continued dedication, support and hard work. As we farewell John Ryan and Sarah Stewart from the Board and thank them for their contributions, we look forward to welcoming in new Board members to complement our governance capability. At the AGM, we look to adopting a revitalised Constitution and Rules that should set the organisation up for its growth, development and innovation in the coming few years. I believe the organisation is growing in its governance capability, and enriching the Board in areas such as fundraising, financial, regulatory, governance and publicity and engagement acumen will be valuable.

Here is to a great future for CAHA!

# Executive Director's Report

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It's been another huge year for CAHA and the issue of climate change and health.

As ever, CAHA has been on the front foot proposing policy solutions, building capacity and skills among health professionals, and supporting the sector to implement sustainable and low carbon practices in healthcare.

Despite the disappointing federal election result, which sees Australia enter another year of the ever-diminishing critical decade without any credible climate policy, and no real policies to address the serious and increasing health impacts of climate change, there are signs of hope.

Health is being increasingly recognised as a powerful and effective narrative for communicating about climate change, and health professionals as trusted and respected voices.

What we hear from people in our network however is that many people in the health sector lack confidence to comfortably communicate about this issue to their colleagues, community members and decision-makers. Our Climate-Health Champions Workshops have been welcomed, and go some way to fill a tiny part of this gap, but it is clear that further education and capacity building is needed if we are to have a healthcare workforce that is prepared and able to respond effectively to the increasing challenges from climate change.

We hope to work with CAHA members and other healthcare stakeholders to build further capacity among health professionals and others in coming years to ensure the sector is able to continue to provide safe, quality (and low carbon) care in a climate-changed world.

Other signs of hope are the increasing recognition among philanthropy of the need to act on climate change and health, and we are very grateful for the support of the Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation and members of the Australian Environment Grantmakers Network for the support they have provided to CAHA during 2018/19.

It is also pleasing to see sub national governments stepping up and taking responsibility for climate and health policy, with Queensland, Tasmania, Western Australia, Victoria, and ACT all beginning to develop policy in this space.

It's such a privilege to work in this dynamic organisation and alongside the incredible people who support this work: the hardworking members of the CAHA board, the amazing individuals who are part of the CAHA staff, the generous and delightful CAHA volunteers, our esteemed expert advisors, and of course, the network of members, whose ideas, commitment and support keep us all going, and provide inspiration during sometimes dark and difficult times. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of this extraordinary movement for change, and for a better, healthier, and safer world.



## Campaigns

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### Our Climate Our Health

(for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia)



### Advocacy

Since 2017, CAHA has led the Our Climate Our Health campaign to engage its members as well as a wider cohort of health sector organisations in raising awareness of climate risks to health and encourage advocacy for climate action to protect health.

This campaign seeks to secure a comprehensive policy framework to tackle climate change, and the accompanying health risks, at all levels of government, in particular the Commonwealth. To guide this, CAHA has led the development of the Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-Being for Australia.

This has seen over 40 health and medical organisations sign up as partners to the Our Climate Our Health campaign. Many of these groups have contributed through developing policy and position statements 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.

In the lead-up to the federal election in May 2019, CAHA worked to engage key health and medical groups in highlighting climate change and making it a priority issue for their organisations in their election platforms. Many drew heavily on CAHA policy documents and policy positions to inform their recommendations. CAHA provided regular updates and webinars for Our Climate Our Health campaign supporters, and developed and provided online and social media resources, as well as content for supporting organisations' websites (e.g. [College of Midwives](#)).

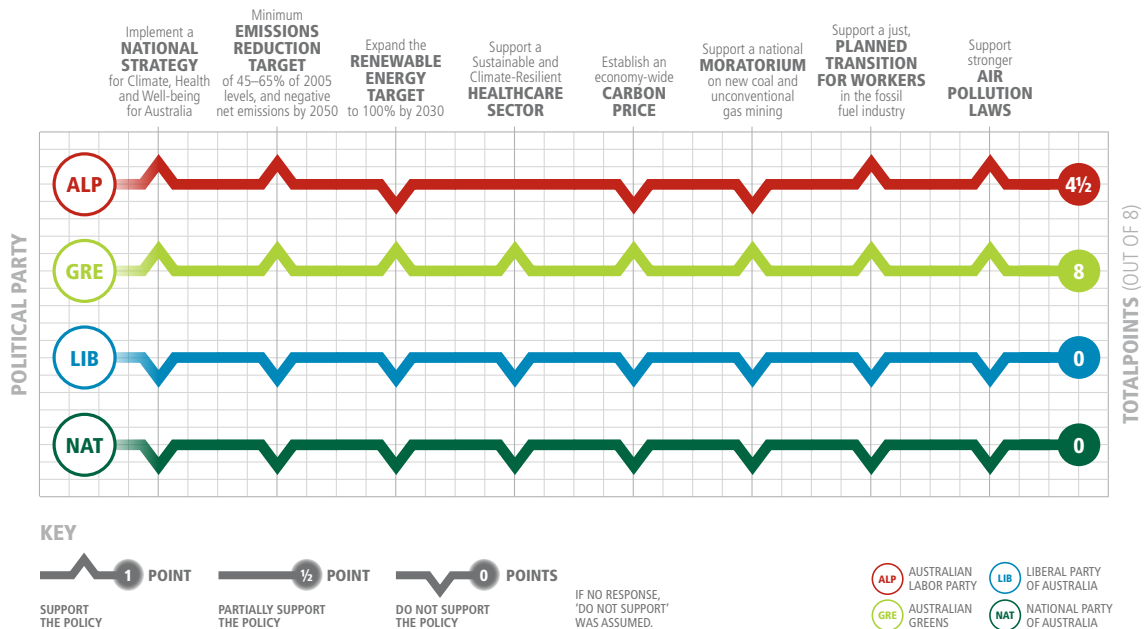
CAHA also produced a scorecard rating the major political parties' climate health policies.

# FEDERAL ELECTION 2019

People in Australia face serious health risks from climate change. This election, how can you use your vote to ensure we tackle climate change and promote a healthy future?



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For more information, visit [www.caha.org.au/federal\\_election\\_2019](http://www.caha.org.au/federal_election_2019)

Want to see Australia develop a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being? Send a letter to your MP today: [www.climateandhealth.good.do](http://www.climateandhealth.good.do)

THE CLIMATE AND HEALTH ALLIANCE IS AN INDEPENDENT COALITION OF HEALTH ORGANISATIONS AND HAS NO POLITICAL AFFILIATION.

*Federal Election 2019 Policy Scorecard developed by CAHA*

The following health and medical groups put out strong calls for climate action during the election campaign:

- ▶ Australian Medical Association
- ▶ Public Health Association of Australia
- ▶ Global Health Alliance Australia
- ▶ Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
- ▶ Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association

## Policy

CAHA has continued to engage with a broad range of policy stakeholders, including local, state and federal government and parliaments, to promote the policy roadmap available in the Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia.

The Framework has received positive responses from stakeholders at every level. Local governments in Victoria are utilising the Framework and adopting its policy recommendations in their Public Health and Well-being Plans; state governments such as Queensland have drawn on the Framework and, based on CAHA's leadership in developing it, commissioned CAHA (and National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility) to develop a Human Health and Wellbeing Climate Adaptation Plan for Qld (H-CAP) - the first such plan to be developed by a state government in Australia.

In Tasmania, the Department of Health has drawn on CAHA's Framework for a National Strategy and the Queensland Government's Human Health and Wellbeing Climate Change Adaptation Plan in order to develop a Discussion Paper on Climate Change and Health. The Discussion Paper will inform the Tasmanian Department of Health's future policy on climate change and health.

In Western Australia, a Climate-Health Inquiry has been announced, following which a climate-health policy framework for the state is proposed. It is anticipated that this will draw on the CAHA Framework.

In Victoria, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has released and is implementing an [environmental sustainability strategy for the health sector](#), part of which involves DHHS joining the Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) network that CAHA coordinates.

At the federal level, 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 have agreed to support the same policy: A National Strategy on Climate Change and Health.

The Australian Labor Party committed in their 2019 national policy platform to develop a National Strategy on Climate Change and Health, based on the Framework developed by CAHA, when elected to govern.

The Greens also explicitly referenced the Climate and Health Alliance's work, saying:

"Our plan for tackling the climate change impacts on health is a holistic one. It will be based on the Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Wellbeing, which was developed by medical and climate change experts in the Climate and Health Alliance."

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

## Education

During 2018/19, CAHA continued to lead a coordinated effort to recruit, train, and mobilise health professionals across Australia in order to spread the climate health message and inform policymakers, parliamentarians, and the community.

## Climate Health Champions Workshops

Over the past 12 months, CAHA has delivered four one-day Climate-Health Champions Workshops and five two-hour Climate Conversations workshops across Australia that have engaged and educated health professionals on the impacts of climate change and health.

CAHA has trained approximately 100 Climate-Health Champions through one-day workshops, boosting their knowledge about climate change and health and providing practical skills to take back to their communities and health institutions. Climate-Health Champions Workshops were held in Brisbane (November 2018), Townsville and Cairns (March 2019) and Sydney (April 2019). The workshops included sessions with a strong focus on building leadership which instilled confidence in participants to build networks in their own communities and deliver messages to the general public.

The pre- and post- evaluations from the Climate-Health Champions workshops indicate a significant increase in awareness and knowledge about the impact of climate change on health among participating of health professionals.

In one workshop, there was an increase from 80% of participants rating themselves 'quite knowledgeable' (and 20% 'a little bit knowledgeable') to 90% of participants rating themselves as 'very knowledgeable' or 'quite knowledgeable'.

This program has led to an active cohort of Climate-Health Champions undertaking community engagement including hosting market stalls, speaking publicly at their workplaces, publishing articles in local media and running their own Climate Conversations workshops.

At each of the workshops, we asked our Climate-Health Champions to pledge to take action on climate change. Some examples of these pledges appear below.



*Health professionals pledging to take action on climate change and health*

## Climate Conversations Workshops

CAHA also ran several workshops to support health professionals and others to have effective conversations on climate change and health. These aimed to provide tips and tools on how to raise awareness of the impact of climate change on health in their workplaces with colleagues, and in the community. Three Climate Conversations Workshops were delivered in Sydney reaching approximately 90 people. Two Climate Conversations Workshops were run in Melbourne and Geelong by one of CAHA's Climate-Health Champions, reaching another 40 people.

## Media and Communications

### Open Letter to All Political Parties and Parliamentary Candidates

CAHA mobilised a substantial number of organisations to show leadership in the lead up to the Federal Election by calling on all political parties to take action on climate change to protect and promote the health of people in Australia. This included the development of an Open Letter to All Political Parties and Parliamentary Candidates which was signed by over 50 health, social welfare and environment groups, representing over one million Australians.



**AN OPEN LETTER TO POLITICAL PARTIES AND CANDIDATES**  
AUSTRALIAN ELECTION 2019

**Climate change poses an unprecedented threat to the health of people in Australia and across the world.**

**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.<sup>1</sup>
- 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.

**SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS**



*Open Letter to political parties and candidates developed by CAHA*

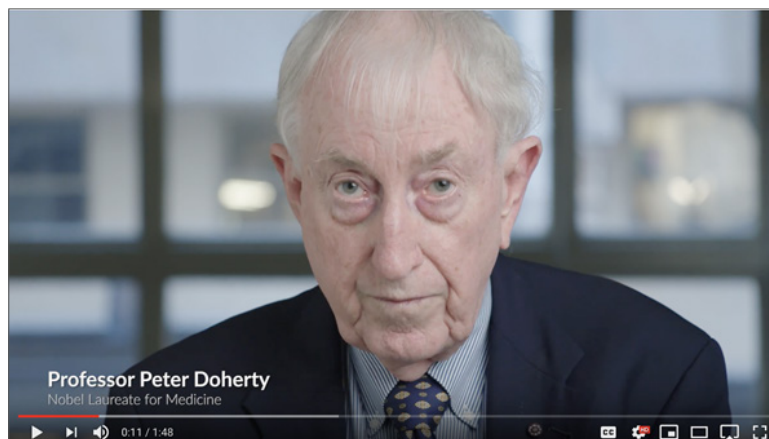


## **‘Our Health – and The Climate Election’**

CAHA produced a short film in 2019 ‘Our Health - and the Climate Election’ featuring three prominent health leaders calling for urgent action on climate change and highlighting the CAHA Climate Health Policy Scorecard.

The film featured: Nobel Laureate for Medicine, Professor Peter Doherty; Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Federal Secretary Annie Butler; and cohealth CEO (now Oxfam CEO), Lyn Morgain.

Our thanks to the ‘Climate and Health Ambassadors’ for so generously offering their time and expertise for this film.



Watch the film [here](#).

## Programs

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### Global Green and Healthy Hospitals – Pacific region



Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) is a worldwide network of health institutions working to reduce the health sector's environmental footprint.

CAHA coordinates the Australian and New Zealand network of GGHH with the support of our international partner, Health Care Without Harm. Funding from Health Care Without Harm enables CAHA to employ a Sustainable Healthcare Program Manager two days a week.

This role delivers outreach, engagement, education and promotion of the program through events, webinars, publications, as well as online and face-to-face engagement for members and prospective members.

The Pacific regional network of GGHH is considered one of the most active and successful regions across the whole global network. Hospitals, health services, and professional associations in the network constitute an active and generous community of practice, with members regularly and openly sharing their knowledge and expertise to assist others.

The network grew by almost a third during the 2018-19 financial year, with 20 new health system / health network / and institutional members joining. As of June 2019, there were 62 GGHH members representing the interests of almost 1,000 hospitals and health services across Australia and New Zealand.

Highlights in 2018/19 included:

- ▶ Strong growth in the network in every state, including in Western Australia, following a letter from the WA Health Minister to all public health services in WA urging them to join GGHH Pacific;
- ▶ CAHA has joined an Implementation Committee meeting biannually with the Department of Health in Victoria regarding their Sustainability Strategy;
- ▶ CAHA has presented on GGHH to health sector audiences at several conferences and events throughout the year, including: the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Sustainability Forum in February 2019; a Climate and Health Roundtable hosted by Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania in April 2019; Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (Victorian Branch) Health and Environmental Sustainability Conference (attended by 600 - 750 nurses and midwives).

- ▶ In partnership with GGHH Pacific regional member, Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB), and OraTaiao, the NZ Climate and Health Council, CAHA ran a climate and health workshop at the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) World Conference in April 2019, sharing some of the lessons from advocacy and sustainable healthcare with an international audience.



*Climate and health workshop leaders Fiona Armstrong, Debbie Wilson, Alexandra MacMillen, Rebecca Patrick and Rhys Jones at the International Union for Health Promotion and Education World Conference in April 2019*



## GGHH Pacific Region Members

As of June 2018:

- ▶ 33 health systems:
  - ▶ Auckland DHB
  - ▶ Austin Health
  - ▶ Capital and Coast DHB
  - ▶ Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service
  - ▶ Counties Manukau District Health Board
  - ▶ Cabrini Health
  - ▶ Dental Health Services Victoria
  - ▶ Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria
  - ▶ Epworth Health
  - ▶ Hawkes Bay District Health Service
  - ▶ Hunter New England LHD
  - ▶ IPC Health
  - ▶ Mater Misericordiae Health Services
  - ▶ Melbourne Health
  - ▶ Mercy Health
  - ▶ Northeast Health Wangaratta
  - ▶ Northern Health
  - ▶ Northland District Health Board
  - ▶ Peninsula Health
  - ▶ South Eastern Sydney LHD
  - ▶ South West Healthcare
  - ▶ South Western Sydney Local Health District
  - ▶ Southern Cross Community Care (NSW & ACT)
  - ▶ Southern Cross Hospitals Limited
  - ▶ South Metropolitan Health Service, Western Australia
  - ▶ Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Health Care Group
  - ▶ St Vincent's Health Australia
  - ▶ Sydney Children's Hospital Network
  - ▶ UnitingCare Queensland
  - ▶ Waitemata DHB
  - ▶ Western Health
  - ▶ Western Sydney Local Health District
- ▶ 7 regional/rural health services:
  - ▶ Bairnsdale RHS
  - ▶ Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service
  - ▶ Goulburn Valley Health RHS
  - ▶ Hepburn RHS

- ▶ Kooweerup RHS
- ▶ Tallangatta Health
- ▶ WA Country Health Service, South West Coast Region
- ▶ 8 hospitals:
  - ▶ Women's and Children's Hospital in South Australia
  - ▶ Prince of Wales Private in NSW
  - ▶ Princess Alexandra Hospital, Queensland
  - ▶ Queanbeyan District Hospital, NSW
  - ▶ Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital
  - ▶ St John of God Richmond
  - ▶ St John of God Burwood
  - ▶ Uniting War Memorial Hospital
- ▶ 2 private clinics:
  - ▶ Sydney Surgical Centre
  - ▶ Manningham Day Procedure Centre
- ▶ 11 health organisations:
  - ▶ Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association;
  - ▶ Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation (Victorian branch);
  - ▶ Australian Medical Students Association
  - ▶ Far North Queensland Sustainability in Health
  - ▶ Healthy Futures
  - ▶ Institute of Healthcare Engineering Australia
  - ▶ New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association (ANMF NSW)
  - ▶ Northeast Sustainability and Health Group
  - ▶ Australian Nurses and Midwives Foundation (SA Branch)
  - ▶ Victorian Allied Health Professionals Association (VAHPA)
  - ▶ Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union
- ▶ 1 rural clinical medicine school:
  - ▶ University of Tasmania.

## Sustainable Healthcare News

CAHA's Sustainable Healthcare newsletters provide a vehicle to share information, resources, updates and showcase latest best practice through case studies from GGHH members as well as other institutions. Newsletters are produced every two months and can be [found here](#).

## Online Member Meetings

Online meetings were held with each new member of the network to introduce them to GGHH. There were also online meetings for all GGHH Pacific Region members held in February, May, and August of 2019. Members shared information about their current projects, future projects, successes, and challenges. These meetings promote dialogue and encourage collaboration within the regional network. One shared activity resulting from these meetings has been the establishment of a clinical engagement working group to identify strategies to engage with clinical staff on sustainability issues. Information and education sessions are also run through the meetings.

## GGHH-Pacific Member accomplishments

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) in Victoria, Australia is a strong supporter of the GGHH network, and an active champion of climate action. ANMF Victoria exemplifies leadership, hosting an annual Health and Environmental Sustainability Conference (HESC) attended by up to 700 nurses and midwives each year. ANMF also runs an education program for its members, *Nursing for the Environment*, which achieved finalist in the 2018 Victorian Premier's Sustainability awards in the category of Health. ANMF has also won awards for its energy efficiency and sustainability measures in its buildings, having installed 120 solar panels, hybrid car spaces, energy efficient shading and light systems, and in house composting of organic waste powered by solar generation.

Western Health has been recognised for its leadership, winning the health category of the Victorian Premier's Sustainability Awards in 2018. This program recycles single-use metal instruments, enabling the recovery of high-quality metals and avoiding unnecessary waste and disposal costs. The program recovered approximately 500 kilograms of recycled steel; around 80% of single use metal instruments purchased by the service.



*Western Health Environmental Sustainability Officer Catherine O'Shea accepts the award*

# Communications and Outreach

## Media

Despite the challenges of getting media coverage on the 'defining health challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century', CAHA has achieved important coverage of the issue of climate change and health and the solutions we propose (e.g. Framework for a National Strategy) in mainstream media.

This included an article in The Guardian, featuring NSW Independent MP Zali Steggall, and CAHA representative, Professor Mary Chiarella from the University of Sydney. Ms Zali Steggall signed a Pledge to support a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-Being for Australia and to advocate for its implementation in parliament.

- ▶ [Zali Steggall promises action to stem health impact of climate change](#), The Guardian, 6 May 2019



**Australian election  
2019**

**Anne Davies**  
@annefdavies  
Mon 6 May 2019 17:37 AEST

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## Zali Steggall promises action to stem health impact of climate change

**The Warringah independent signs up to strategy to tackle problems of increased asthma, mental illness and heat-related deaths**



▲ Zali Steggall signs up for the Climate Health Alliance with Professor Mary Chiarella of the University of Sydney. Photograph: Anne Davies/The Guardian

Independent candidate for Warringah, **Zali Steggall**, has pledged to address the health impacts of climate change if she wins Warringah as an independent.

Like her fellow independent, Kerry Phelps in Wentworth, Steggall signed up on Monday to the strategy developed by the Climate **Health** Alliance, which has more than one million health professionals behind it through their representative groups. It is pushing governments to start factoring climate change into their thinking about health policy, warning that a rise of 3C in world temperatures would have catastrophic consequences for the health of Australians.

*Zali Steggall MP with CAHA member Professor Mary Chiarella*

An extensive article (> 1000 words) by journalist Stephanie Bedo appeared in May 2019 the News Corporation publication news.com.au in May 2019, entitled 'The cost of inaction on Australia's new number one threat.' This article featured the CAHA Climate Health Policy Scorecard, referred to the Open Letter and included a link to a video from the CEO of the Public Health Association of Australia, calling for urgent action on climate.

- ▶ [The cost of inaction on Australia's new number one threat](#), News.com.au, 16 May 2019

ABC News journalist Olivia Willis wrote on the health impacts of climate change, quoting CAHA's Executive Director, Fiona Armstrong on issues including rising temperatures and heatwaves, air pollution, and food security, as well as their associated health effects.

- ▶ [The health impacts of climate change and why calls for action are growing louder](#), ABC News, 6 July 2019

Melissa Sweet championed the Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being, noting the support it has received by federal parliamentarians, as well as the States, particularly Queensland, who are drawing on the National Framework to construct climate and health policies at the state level.

- ▶ [Climate-constrained healthcare](#), Inside Story, 5 September 2018

Melissa Sweet pointed to inequality and climate change as issues that have a profound and compounded effect on health. CAHA's election scorecard is also mentioned and linked from the article.

- ▶ [Inequality and climate change: the perfect storm threatening the health of Australia's poorest](#), The Guardian, 14 May 2019

## Opinion pieces

Several members of the CAHA network had opinion pieces published in the media throughout 2018/19 to increase community awareness of the links between climate change and health and the need for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being.

Dr Marianne Cannon, a supporter of the Our Climate Our Health campaign, Fellow of the Australian College of Emergency Medicine (ACEM), and member of the Australian Medical Association QLD Council (AMAQ), pointed to the elderly and other vulnerable groups that will suffer with a warming climate during hotter and longer heatwaves.

- ▶ [My older patients suffer most during hotter and longer heatwaves](#), The Guardian, 1 March, 2019

Dr Kate Charlesworth and Dr Peter Sainsbury discussed the link between the healthcare system and the emissions it is contributing to climate change, as well as promoting CAHA to health professionals interested in starting initiatives in their workplace.

- ▶ [Healthy changes can help address climate challenge](#), The Examiner, 15 July 2019

Dr Peter Sainsbury highlighted the link between climate change, rising temperatures, and human health, especially in relation to rural communities who work outdoors and will be most at risk.

- ▶ [Climate change threatens the health and wellbeing of rural Australians](#), Partyline, 28 May 2019

Fiona Armstrong introduced the idea of a health emergency as a result of climate change and points to CAHA's Open Letter calling for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being.

- ▶ [Who will address the health emergency of climate change?](#), John Menadue, 22 April 2019

Fiona Armstrong wrote about the climate-health policy work being done across States and Territories after the set-back for national action on climate change and health as a result of the federal election.

- ▶ [Climate health still in need of a federal map](#), Intouch (Public Health Association of Australia), July 2019

Dr Marianne Canon pointed to the lack of action on climate change at a national level, using climate-related health impacts to argue for collective action.

- ▶ [Our Future: Leaders must act on climate change now](#), The Courier, 10 June 2018

Dr Marianne Cannon and Dr Joseph Ting argued the health effects of climate change will continue to worsen if no action is taken at the federal level.

- ▶ [Our Future: Action needed to heal planetary wounds](#), Magnet, 12 November 2018

Dr Marianne Cannon discussed the impact of the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, due to climate change, on the wellbeing of emergency services personnel.

- ▶ [Ash Wednesday: a debt we can never repay](#), InSight+, 11 February, 2019

## Social Media

CAHA's key social media platform are Facebook and Twitter. CAHA's Facebook page reached a significant milestone of 3000 followers in July 2019, and Twitter followers reached 3,830.

## Engagement and Growth

Between June 30, 2018 and June 30, 2019, CAHA's Facebook Page 'Likes' increased by 1,071 people, or 57% (1,876 to 2,913), typically growing by approximately 20 new likes per week. The period of most rapid growth was during the federal election campaign. CAHA gained 300 new likes in the month of May, and 128 new likes in April. Between February and May, we saw strong growth on both social media channels: our Facebook followers grew by over 850 people and Twitter by 400.

The unique daily users on Facebook who saw Climate and Health Alliance content on one occasion in a day increased by 825%, two times a day by 490%, five times a day by 168% and 6-10 times a day by 2,500%. On Twitter our 'post likes' increased by 234%, 'Retweets' by 208%, 'Engagement' by 220% and 'Mentions' by 5,825%.

Through this engagement and other outreach, we recruited over 2,000 new supporters to the Our Climate Our Health campaign, with over 128 people contacting their Member of Parliament since June 2018, and over 200 pledging to 'vote climate' in the lead up to the election.



## Events

CAHA hosted a Symposium in Melbourne in September 2018, where approximately 60 attendees gathered to discuss issues of climate and health in Australia. Attendees represented the health sector, local and state government, professional and industrial associations, not for profit organisations, as well as research, academia, environmental organisations and civil society. The Symposium created opportunities for collaboration and to share challenges, successes and opportunities surrounding climate change and health, and to generate momentum to help accelerate coordinated and effective action. A report from the symposium is available [here](#).



*ANMF Environmental Health Officer Ros Morgan shares insights from nurses and midwives*

# Policy and Advocacy

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## Submissions

During the 2018-19 financial year, CAHA made a number of submissions that appear below and on the website at [www.caha.org.au/submissions](http://www.caha.org.au/submissions). The submissions were for:

- ▶ [Victorian EPA Review of Brown Coal-Fired Power Stations Licenses](#) (February 2018)
- ▶ [Review of National Pollutant Inventory](#) (August 2018)
- ▶ [Medical Research Future Fund consultation to inform the second Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities 2018-2020](#) (August 2018)

## Climate Strike

CAHA declared its support for the School Strike 4 Climate initiative that took place across Australia on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019. CAHA members and supporters participated across the country, with health delegations joining the Strike in Brisbane, Cairns, Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle and Melbourne.



*Staff and volunteers at the School Strike for Climate in Melbourne, March 2019*



## Volunteer Coordinator's Report

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CAHA is supported by an amazing team of volunteers who have generously contributed their time and skills during 2018-19 to many areas of CAHA's work.

A new addition to the volunteer program is the role of a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator responsible for recruiting and managing CAHA volunteers. Over the course of the year several procedures were updated to streamline the application and induction processes, with new tools established for volunteer reviews and exit interviews. During National Volunteer Week in May 2019, CAHA shared a special morning tea with volunteers to say a big thank you for all of their support.



*CAHA Volunteers EJ Fisher, Emma Keech, Eliza Watson and Alison McKinnon*

Special mentions must go to the following volunteers:

### **Eliza Watson, Sustainable Healthcare Volunteer**

Eliza has been volunteering with CAHA for over a year now, and in her time with us she has taken on the responsibility of the bi-monthly Sustainable Healthcare Newsletter as well as helping out at events and with policy and research work.

### **Emma Keech, Media and Communications Volunteer**

Emma has also volunteered with CAHA for a year now and has had a hugely positive impact on CAHA's social media platforms. Throughout the year she has built up a following on Facebook and Twitter with her witty and thought-provoking posts.

### **Alison McKinnon, Policy and Research Volunteer**

Alison joined the CAHA team for a three-month internship during 2019. During her time at CAHA, Alison provided support to the Our Climate Our Health campaign in the lead up to the federal election as well as writing briefs and fact sheets on topics related to climate change and health.

### **Emajane Fisher, Sustainable Healthcare Volunteer**

EJ volunteered with CAHA during 2019, writing case studies to document the work of members of the Pacific region of the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network.

### **Danielle Schutte**

Danielle has been a long-time volunteer at CAHA and has helped with many different projects throughout the year. She has assisted with photography at CAHA events, helped to spread the climate and health message at the Sustainable Living Festival, and produced a short film about climate change and health which screened the Environmental Film Festival in October 2018.

### **Grace Fitzgerald**

Grace has also been involved with CAHA for many years and during this financial year, has helped with the Our Climate Our Health campaign, running Climate Conversations workshops in the lead up to the federal election.

### **Amulya Bandi**

During her time as a CAHA volunteer, Amulya was always happy to assist with any tasks required. She helped out at CAHA events, promoted the Our Climate Our Health campaign to supporters, and contributed to policy and research work.

CAHA is extremely grateful to have such a widely talented and dedicated team of volunteers.

We would like to say a HUGE thank you for all of their support throughout this financial year and we look forward to welcoming many new faces to the CAHA volunteer team in the upcoming year!

## Treasurer's Report

Since its inception in 2010, CAHA has grown and matured in its governance, in its financial processes and in its ability to represent its members and the interests of the health sector and the people they care for. As CAHA has matured it has progressed from an organisation that has a volunteer financial manager to one that has a professional book keeper supporting the day to day financial management.

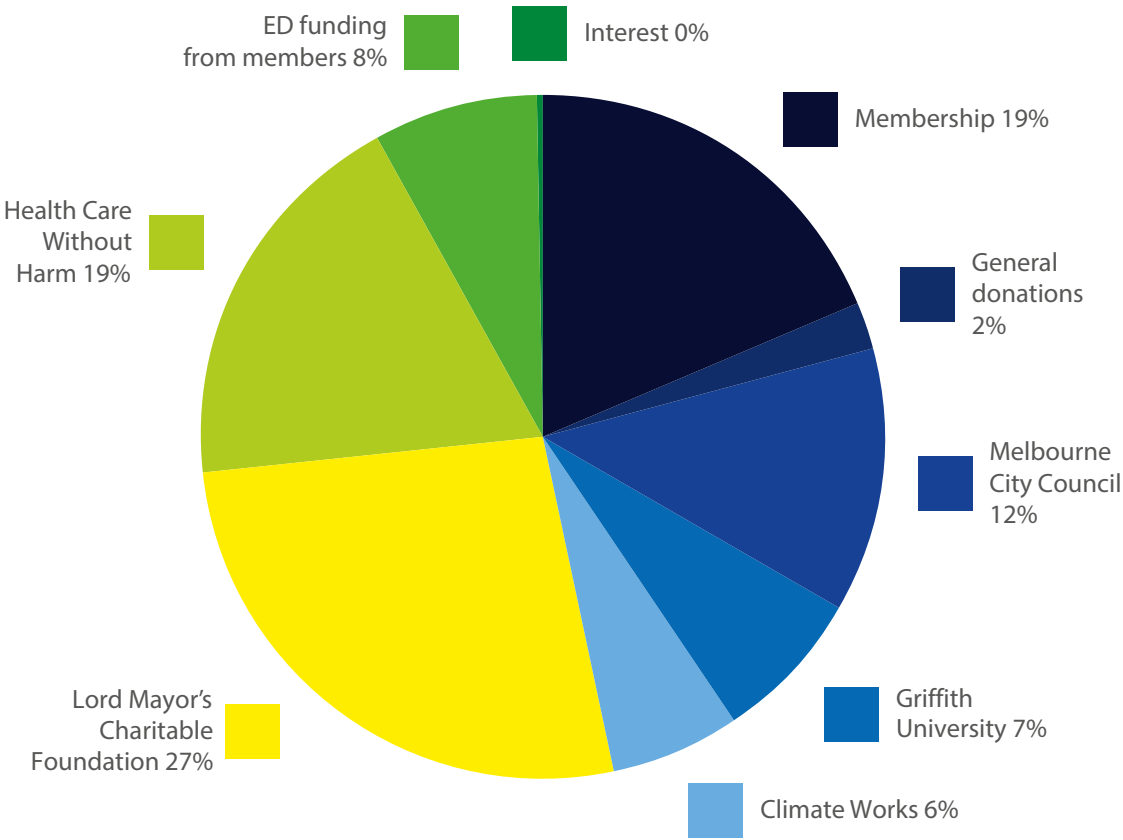
CAHA is a small charity under the rules of the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) and therefore does not require an audit. However, the Board is keen to have CAHA audited before we transition to a medium charity. This will provide our members and funders with confidence in our financial management processes as we grow. The audit is currently in progress and the Board of CAHA commits to provide a copy of the audit to its members as soon as it is complete. The audit is being undertaken on a pro bono basis by KPMG and the board would like to thank them for their time.

CAHA, as a small charity, has been using a simple reporting process. The auditor has recommended that some changes be made to mature CAHA's reporting processes as CAHA grows. Table 1 below shows the recommended changes in CAHA's reporting processes:

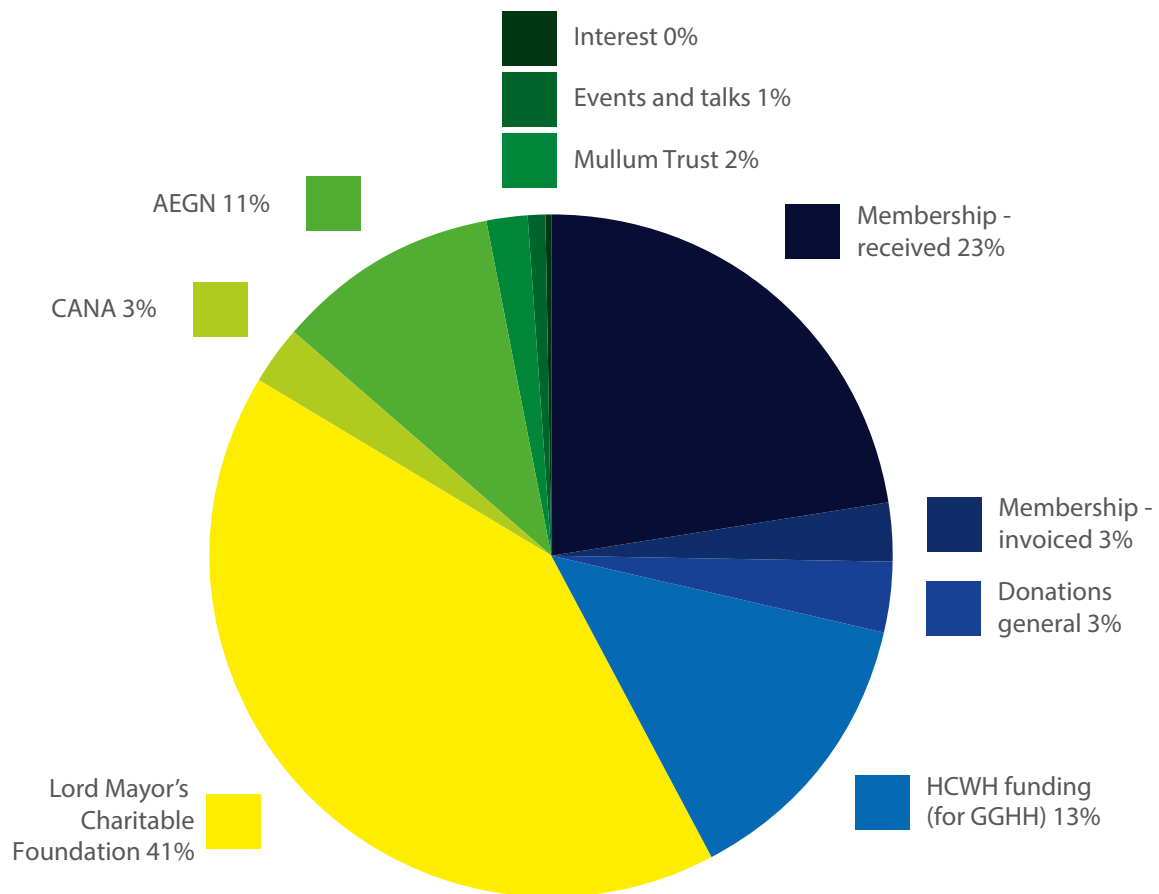
Old reporting process	New reporting process
<b>Income</b> Income is recorded as received when it arrives in the bank account	<b>Income</b> Grant funding is recorded as being received as it is spent and not when it arrives in the bank account. This is because grant funding has to be returned if it is not spent on time and in accordance with the grant contract.  Non-grant funding is counted as received when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ It arrives in the bank account (e.g. general donations)</li><li>▶ It is invoiced (e.g. membership)</li></ul>
<b>Expenses</b> An expense is recorded as being incurred when it leaves the bank account	<b>Expenses</b> An expense is recorded as debt when it is incurred (e.g. work done) even if the invoice hasn't arrived yet

Table 1. Changes in financial reporting process

To enable a comparison between the 2017/18 and 2018/19 reporting years, the new reporting method has been applied to both years and provided in the graphs below.



Graph 1. 2017/18 Income under new reporting method



Graph 2. 2018/19 Income under new reporting method

A grant was received from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation (LMCF) in June 2018 to fund the 2018/19 Our Climate Our Health (OCOH) – training and capacity building program. This is now recorded in the 2018/19 income in line with the new reporting method. Similarly, money received from the Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) has now been reported in the 2018/19 year for the same reason.

The total income and expenditure for 2017/18 and 2018/19 under the new reporting method are:

	2017-18	2018-19
<b>Income</b>	\$162,351	\$248,481
<b>Expenses</b>	\$150,739	\$253,339

Table 2. Total income and expenditure

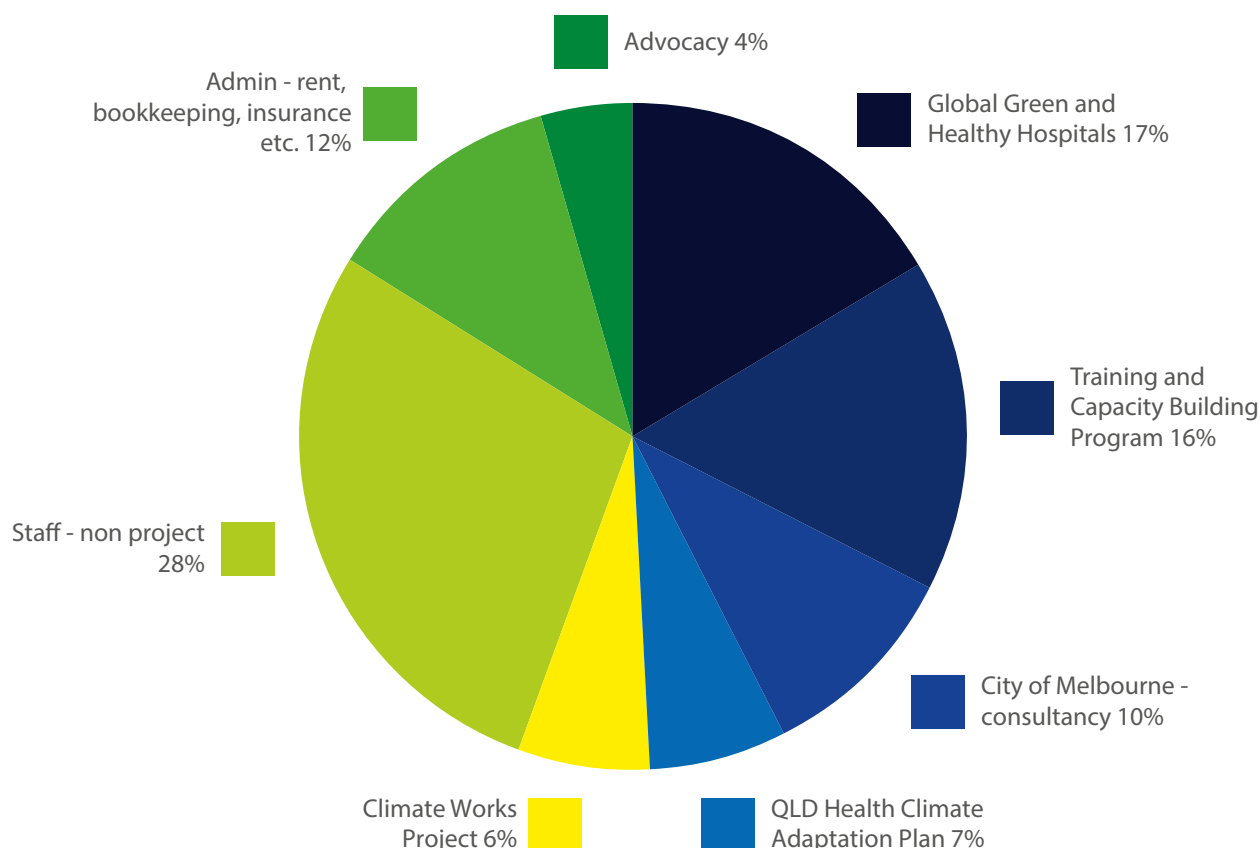
CAHA's income continues to grow, which is a positive trend. However, with CAHA's successes has come an increase in demand for CAHA's services. The demand for CAHA to increase its services requires greater financial growth than we have historically seen. It is therefore a priority of the Board to continue exploring opportunities to grow and expand CAHA's revenue.

CAHA continues to rely primarily on grants from philanthropic organisations. The majority of CAHA's revenue growth in 2018/19 has come from grants from philanthropic organisations. CAHA has been successful in receiving both larger grants and a greater number of grants than in previous years.

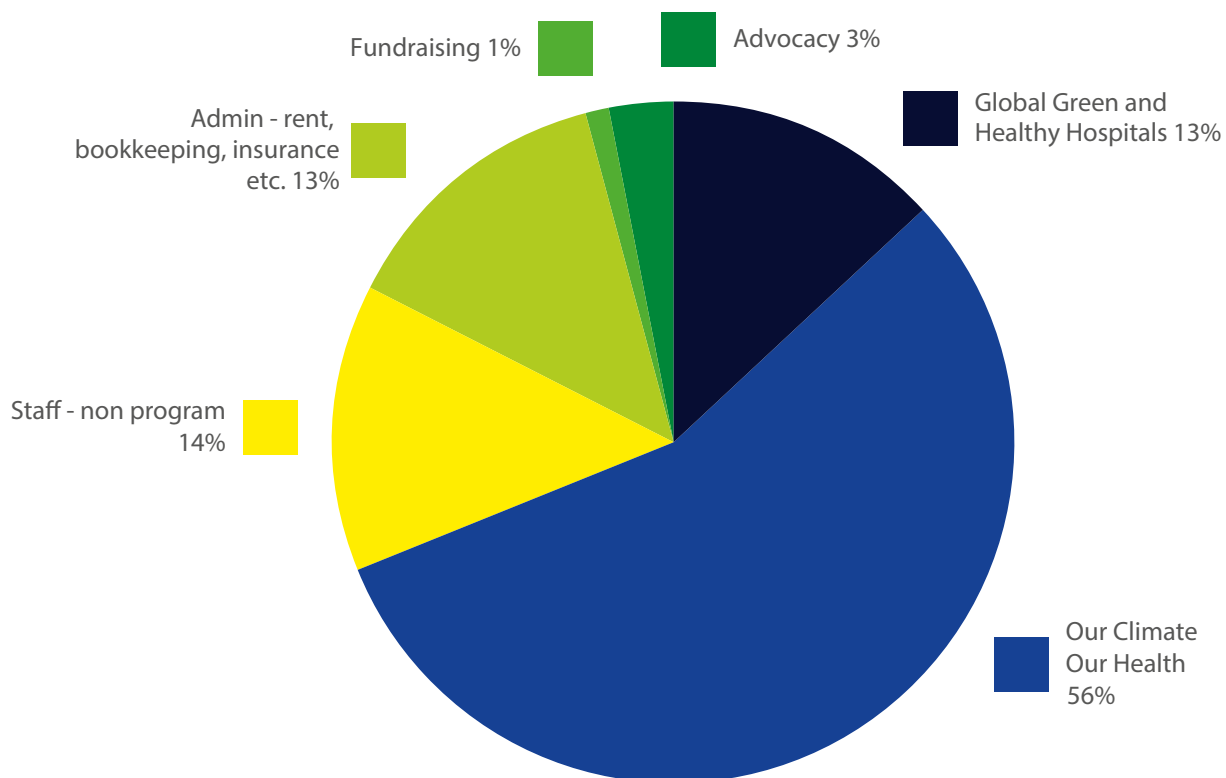
The funding from Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), which funds Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH), continues to buck this trend with another decrease in funding in 2018/19. GGHH is funded globally (through HCWH) by international philanthropic organisations who feel that they get most value for their money by funding developing nations. As Australia is a developed nation this funding trend has resulted in a decrease in funding at a time when interest in GGHH from the health sector is increasing rapidly. Expanding and diversifying funding for this program is a high priority for the Board who are continuing to explore a number of funding avenues from philanthropic organisations and government.

Membership income also increased from \$30k in 2017/18 to \$56k received in 2018/19 with an additional \$7k worth of new membership invoices in accounts receivable awaiting payment. This increase in income is primarily due to new members joining CAHA throughout the year.

CAHA continues to receive requests to present to various organisations. As such a new policy and pricing guideline has been put in place to recover costs of these events. This policy, introduced in 2019, has resulted in nearly \$2k in revenue.



Graph 3. 2017/18 Expenses under new reporting method



Graph 4. 2018/19 Expenses under new reporting method

The expenses to deliver the Melbourne City Council climate and health study, the Queensland Health Sector Climate Adaptation Plan and the Climate Works project in 2017/18 are now recorded in the 2017/18 expenses despite being invoiced for payment in July 2018.

There is a slight deficit of nearly \$5k in this year's budget. This is offset by last year's surplus of over \$11k.

GGHH and the OCOH programs remain CAHA's two core programs in 2018/19.

CAHA's administration expenses increased in 2018/19. This was due to the need to change premises resulting in an increase in rent, as well expanding offices in different states.

CAHA continues to transition some core operational roles from voluntary to paid positions. This is seen in the staff wages (non program) portion of the expenses.

CAHA's balance sheet for 2018/19 is as follows:

**Climate and Health Alliance  
Balance Sheet  
as at 30th of June 2019**

**Assets**

Bank account holdings	\$184,803.92
Accounts Receivable	\$7,128.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$191,931.92</b>

**Liabilities**

Accounts Payable	\$23,013.03
GST collected	\$644.91
GST paid	-\$1,090.64
Grant funding (LMCF, CANA, AEGN, Oak)	\$50,259.89
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$72,827.19</b>

**Equity**

<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$119,104.73</b>
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CAHA's profit and loss for 2018/19 is as follows:



## Climate and Health Alliance Profit and Loss Statement 1st July to 30th June 2019

### Income

Membership – received	\$56,296.55
Membership - invoiced	\$7,128.00
Donations general	\$8,307.98
Health Care Without Harm	\$33,727.47
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation	\$102,320.91
Climate Action Network Australia	\$7,039.28
Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network	\$26,707.90
Mullum Trust	\$4,765.01
Events and talks	\$1,972.80
Interest	\$217.01
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$248,481.91</b>

### Expenses

Global Green and Healthy Hospitals	\$33,727.47
Our Climate Our Health program	\$140,833.10
Staff (non-program)	\$34,630.84
Administration	\$33,884.08
Fundraising	\$3,196.33
Advocacy	\$8,506.58
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$253,339.40</b>

<b>Deficit</b>	<b>\$4,856.49</b>
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On behalf of the Board of CAHA I would like to thank all of our donors for their contributions to the important work CAHA has delivered over the past year. I would also like to thank all of our long-term members for their ongoing financial support. Your support is crucial for core business operations that are not able to be covered through philanthropic funding. I would like to thank all of our new members who have contributed to the great success of our membership drive in 2018/19.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of our volunteers who contribute so much more than what is recorded on our balance sheet.



**CLIMATE<sup>AND</sup>  
HEALTH  
ALLIANCE**

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