

Annual Report 2019/20



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

About Climate and Health Alliance

The establishment of the Climate and Health Alliance was a direct response to the call from the international medical journal The Lancet in 2009 calling for a public health movement that ‘framed the threat of climate change for humankind as a health issue’.

CAHA’s members recognise that health care stakeholders have a particular responsibility to the community in advocating for climate action to protect and promote human health.

CAHA works to catalyse action on climate change through building a powerful health sector movement, nationally and internationally.

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Climate and Health Alliance Annual Report 2019/20

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President's Report

Amanda Adrian



The Climate and Health Alliance acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia; and notably on those lands on which we live, work and strive to make change on climate and health matters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; to Elders past, present and into the future. We also acknowledge the work of Indigenous people and those who are helping us learn to manage our land. We recognise our first peoples have the wisdom and understanding of this land and its management; and we need to make our organisation a culturally safe place for us to learn from them.

CAHA has reached a significant milestone – 10 years of remarkable contributions to the advocacy and teaching about 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 not-for-profit non-governmental organisation (NGO), CAHA continues to 'punch well above its weight'. Without strong Commonwealth Government policy, strategy and leadership in the area of climate change and health, CAHA has increased its focus on achieving gains through the jurisdictions, and is increasingly having success working at 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 their embrace of the opportunities offered by the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network in making real change to the practices of individual health services across the 10 key areas of leadership, chemicals, waste, energy, water, transportation, food, pharmaceuticals, buildings and purchasing.

These achievements are an extraordinary testament to the work of Fiona Armstrong, Founder and Executive Director (ED) of CAHA and her small but very capable team of staff: Adam Pulford, Carol Behne, Jessica Rosien, Remy Shergill, Milly Burgess and Shaun Manyweathers, and our amazing volunteers. Thanks too, to our capable and unflappable bookkeeper, Tricia Middel, who manages CAHA's finances with such good humour and aplomb.

The Board, Board Committees, staff and stakeholders have watched CAHA evolve and show increasing signs of maturity, with staggering growth and development and earning great respect for the constancy and quality of its contribution to bringing attention to and offering solutions in this international time of crisis, despite limited 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 has been the continuing growth of 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. CAHA now has 45 organisational members and over 160 Friends of CAHA, our individual members.

And finally to governance. I thank the members of CAHA's Board for their continued dedication, support and hard work. Sadly, we farewell Ying Zhang and Katherine Middleton from the Board. We thank them both for their significant

contributions: to Ying for joining Fiona Armstrong in liaising with our international climate and health partners on the board of the Global Climate and Health Alliance, serving as a CAHA representative on the WHO Working Group for Action on Health and Climate, and also on CAHA's Research and Policy Committee; and to Katherine Middleton for several years of service, including serving on CAHA's governance committee. We now look forward to welcoming two new Board members to fill some of our governance capability gaps.

At the AGM we will be asking Members to contribute to the dialogue about potential changes to our Purpose and Objects; and our branding 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 welcomed.

A great decade, CAHA! It is hoped that the next decade brings some of the changes that we have been advocating and governments that take their responsibilities seriously and set policy objectives that see the planet and its inhabitants having a healthy future.

Executive Director's Report

Fiona Armstrong



Despite significant challenges in terms of climate-related catastrophes and a global pandemic, this year has been a year of steady growth and consolidation for CAHA. We have grown more in the last year than ever before, we've attracted new sources of funding and we've built a strong team with a diverse skill set, with CAHA benefitting as more ideas and passion are directed towards our goals.

Adam Pulford joined CAHA in August 2019 as Operations and Engagement Manager (0.6FTE), and Jess Rosien joined as Organiser in October 2019 (0.6FTE). They joined myself, Carol Behne (Sustainable Healthcare Program Manager, 0.4FTE) and Milly Burgess (Projects and Campaigns Support, 0.4FTE) in our office in Ross House in Flinders Lane in Melbourne. Shaun Manyweathers was appointed as our one day/week graphic designer in April 2020, just after we abandoned the office due to the COVID-19 pandemic and set up at our respective homes – where we have been working ever since.

We built on a strong foundation of advocacy on climate and health policy this year, with the beginnings of implementation of the Human Health and Wellbeing Climate Adaptation Plan in Queensland that CAHA developed with NCCARF in 2018. Department of Health Queensland has joined our Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network, and prior to COVID-19, had planned an ambitious program to scale up this work in Queensland. We look forward to this resuming

as the pressure of the pandemic subsides. The WA Climate and Healthy Inquiry was a welcome initiative, demonstrating strong leadership from the WA Government on this issue. CAHA made an extensive contribution to the Inquiry, including a visit to WA to provide expert testimony, and we hope this report, delivered to the Minister in March, will soon be released and its recommendations implemented.

Our Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network continues to grow, as many organisations and institutions recognise the value of this collaborative network, and embracing the chance to learn from others and collectively develop a global best practice in sustainable healthcare. The commitments to participation by ACT Health and NT Health are also welcome.

With an expanding team and greater capacity, we've been able to invest in training, with Adam and myself participating in the Progress Labs initiative in early 2020. We had the opportunity to hone our strategic vision, build our fundraising skills, pitch to philanthropy, and secure new philanthropic partners through the Australian Communities Foundation. We are deeply grateful to Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation for continuing to invest in us, to the Pool of Dreams consortia, Australian Conservation Foundation, and Groundswell Giving for helping us to realise some important campaign goals.

The **Climate and Health Alliance** (CAHA) is widely recognised as the national peak body and leading non-government organisation (NGO) working on climate change and health in Australia. Over 45 organisations – national professional associations (representing practitioners 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.

About

Mission

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

Vision

The health sector plays a leading role in restoring a safe climate, and an ecologically sustainable, just, and healthy world.

Pillars for Success

1. Health sector is leading climate advocacy
 2. Climate change is recognised as a health issue
 3. Decision-makers act on climate to protect health
 4. Health sector is climate resilient and sustainable
 5. Our Alliance grows in size and influence
-

Core Strategies

1. Activate health professionals as powerful advocates for change
2. Build public support by communicating climate health impacts
3. Advocate for national and global action on the climate health emergency
4. Support the health sector to cut emissions and build climate health resilience
5. Position CAHA as the leading national climate and health peak body in Australia

CAHA is lucky to have many incredibly talented people involved – in the team of staff, on the board, on its expert advisory committee, among its membership, and its volunteers.

Our People

Our Board



President

Amanda Adrian

Independent Director



Vice President

Rebecca Patrick

Health Nature Sustainability
Research Group



Treasurer

Kim Daire

Independent Director



Deputy Treasurer

Michael Wheelahan

Independent Director



Secretary

Ingrid Johnston

Public Health
Association of Australia



Ying Zhang

School of Public Health
University of Sydney



Jo Walker

Australian Health
Promotion Association



Katherine Middleton

Australian Medical
Students' Association



Lucie Rychetnik

Friends of CAHA



Frances Peart

Australian College of Nursing



David Zerman

Independent Director



Fiona Armstrong

Executive Director

Our Team



Fiona Armstrong

Executive Director
and Founder

Fiona works 0.6FTE, and leads CAHA's work on policy and strategy. Fiona is also CAHA's media spokesperson and often presents at conferences and events.



Adam Pulford

Operations and Engagement
Director, *previously*
Engagement Manager

Adam works full-time, and leads on CAHA's fundraising, communications, stakeholder engagement, and campaigns. Adam's role also involves operations, human resources and finances.



Jessica Rosien

Policy and Education
Manager, *previously*
Organiser

Jessica works 0.6FTE. Jessica leads CAHA's education and training program; Climate Health Champions. Jessica is also playing a lead role in CAHA's policy development work.



Carol Behne

Sustainable Healthcare
Program Manager

Carol works 0.4FTE leading the Sustainable Healthcare Program, which includes coordinating the Global Green and Health Hospitals network in the Pacific region (Australia and New Zealand).



Milly Burgess

Operations and Projects
Support Officer

Milly works 0.4FTE providing support to the CAHA team across all of CAHA's programs and campaigns. She also supports membership outreach, helps organise and deliver events, and coordinates CAHA's volunteer program.



Shaun Manyweathers

Graphic Design

Shaun works 0.2FTE on brand styling and graphic design for publications, websites, and social media.



Tricia Middel

Bookkeeper

Tricia works part-time overseeing CAHA's finances and maintaining accurate financial records.



Sue Cooke

Project Consultant

Sue Cooke works on a contract basis supporting CAHA's activities, particularly in Queensland, both in relation to sustainable healthcare and our policy and advocacy agenda.

Expert Advisory Committee

CAHA's Expert Advisory Committee is a highly credentialled group of experts who provide advice to ensure CAHA public statements and published papers are credible and based on the best available scientific literature and evidence. All members of the expert advisory committee offer unique and informed perspectives on climate and health issues. CAHA is grateful for their willingness to contribute.

Associate Professor Grant Blashki

Nossal Institute for Global Health

Associate Professor Kathryn Bowen,

Hon. Associate Professor, Fenner School of Environment and Society, Senior Fellow at the Research School of Population Health

Professor Colin Butler

Visiting Fellow, Australian National University

Professor Tony Capon

Director, Monash Sustainable Societies Institute

Dr Susie Burke

Senior Psychologist, Psychology for a Safe Climate

Professor Garry Egger

School of Health & Human Sciences, Southern Cross University

Professor Sharon Friel

Professor of Health Equity, Director, Menzies Centre for Health Governance, ANU

Dr Elizabeth Hanna

Honorary Senior Fellow, Fenner School of Environment & Society & Climate Change Institute; Chair- Environmental Health Working Group, World Federation of Public Health Associations

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

Dr Peter Tait, Convenor

Ecology and Environment Special Interest Group,
Public Health Association

Professor John Wiseman

Melbourne Sustainable Societies Institute

Volunteers

CAHA is extremely lucky to have many talented and passionate volunteers who assist with all areas of CAHA's work. Fortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has not impacted on the volunteer program, with volunteers able to work from home with the support of CAHA staff. Although the transition to working from home happened quickly, volunteers took it in their stride and have settled into the online structure of the program well. Each and every volunteer contributes meaningfully to CAHA and we are extremely grateful for their support and the time they dedicate to CAHA.

Special thanks to our volunteers

Emajane Fisher

Sustainable Healthcare Volunteer, April 2019 – July 2019

Emma Keech

Digital Media & Communications Volunteer,
August 2018 – November 2019

Olivia D'Souza

Sustainable Healthcare Volunteer, September 2019 – March 2020

Eliza Watson

Policy, Research & Communications Volunteer, June 2018 – May 2020

Hannah Bylsma

Sustainable Healthcare Volunteer, September 2019 – Present

Jette Bollerup

Sustainable Healthcare Volunteer, October 2019 – Present

Lin Oke

Volunteer Project Officer, December 2019 – Present

Dionysia Evitaputri

Communications Volunteer, May 2020 – Present

Miranda Leckey

Membership Volunteer, May 2020 – Present

Damien Payne

Database Volunteer, May 2020 – Present

Catelyn Richards

Research Volunteer, June 2020 – Present

CAHA's Organisational Membership has grown this year, reaching **47 member organisations**. Membership now includes organisations from outside the health sector, who can join CAHA as Associate (non-voting) Members.



Our Members

Member Organisations

In 2019/20, we welcomed: Central Australia Rural Practitioners Association, Women's and Children's Healthcare Australasia, ConNetica Consulting, Consumers Health Forum of Australia, Codesain,, Vets for Climate Action, Health Consumers NSW, Doctors for Nutrition, Naturopaths and Herbalists Association of Australia, Medical Association for Prevention of War, NSW Nurses and Midwives Association, Minter Ellison, and Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union. The diversity and scale of our membership strengthens our advocacy and helps us scale up our collective impact.

Our Members

[Abilita ↗](#)

[Australasian Epidemiological Association \(AEA\) ↗](#)

[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 Women's Health Network \(AWHN\) ↗](#)

[Australian Medical Students' Association \(AMSA\) ↗](#)

[Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation \(ANMF\) ↗](#)

[Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association \(APNA\) ↗](#)

[Australian Psychological Society \(APS\) ↗](#)

[Central Australia Rural Practitioners Association \(CARPA\) ↗](#)

[Children's Healthcare Australasia ↗](#)

[Codesain ↗](#)

[CoHealth ↗](#)

[ConNetica Consulting ↗](#)

[Consumers Health Forum of Australia \(CHF\) ↗](#)

[CRANaplus ↗](#)

[Doctors for Nutrition ↗](#)

[Doctors Reform Society \(DRS\) ↗](#)

[Friends of CAHA ↗](#)

[Health Consumers NSW ↗](#)

[Healthy Futures ↗](#)

[Health Issues Centre \(HIC\) ↗](#)

[Health Nature Sustainability Research Group \(HNSRG\) ↗](#)

[Health Services Union \(HSU\) ↗](#)

[Kooweerup Regional Health Service \(KRHS\) ↗](#)

[Medical Association for Prevention of War \(MAWP\) Australia ↗](#)

[Medical Scientists Association of Victoria \(MSAV\) ↗](#)

[MinterEllison ↗](#)

[Motion Energy Group ↗](#)

[Naturopaths and Herbalists Association of Australia \(NHAA\) ↗](#)

[Pharmacists for the Environment Australia \(PEA\) ↗](#)

[Public Health Association of Australia \(PHAA\) ↗](#)

[Psychology for a Safe Climate \(PSC\) ↗](#)

[Royal Australasian College of Physicians \(RACP\) ↗](#)

[Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union \(QNMU\) ↗](#)

[School of Public Health, University of Sydney ↗](#)

[School of Public Health & Social Work,
Queensland University of Technology ↗](#)

[Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health \(SARRAH\) ↗](#)

[Veterinarians for Climate Action \(VFCA\) ↗](#)

[Victorian Allied Health Professionals Association \(VAHPA\) ↗](#)

[Women's Health East \(WHE\) ↗](#)

[Women's Health in the North \(WHIN\) ↗](#)

[Women's Healthcare Australasia ↗](#)

Our Work

Pillar 1 Health sector is leading climate advocacy

Under this pillar, we work to activate and support health professionals and health stakeholders to lead action on climate change.

Climate-Health Champions training

Over the past 12 months, CAHA has delivered Climate-Health Champions Workshops in Tasmania and the Northern Territory, with a total of approximately 50 Climate and Health Champions participating. The training in Hobart (November 2019) was a one-day event with 25 health professionals and public servants participating. The workshop referenced the Department of Health's Discussion Paper on climate and health from its Roundtable earlier in the year (April 2019), which featured CAHA's policy frameworks. Follow up actions by participants included advocacy for climate and health measures with the Hobart mayor's office, and with members of the Tasmanian parliament.

The training for the Northern Territory in early 2020 was shifted to a series of online webinars, due to COVID-19 restrictions. CAHA held an introductory skill-share at the beginning of May, followed by two more detailed strategy workshops. 17 health professionals, including practitioners and allied health providers for remote communities, participated. CAHA supported participants to coordinate an election campaign strategy, including writing and launching the [NT Election Briefing on Heat, Climate Change, Health and the Need for Urgent Action](#). This Briefing featured in the NT News on its release. CAHA distributed the Briefing to all NT Election candidates and requested meetings, and supported participants to meet with candidates prior to the election.



The agenda and dissemination of each of the workshops was developed in close consultation with prospective participants, and responded to participants' interests and needs. The Hobart workshop included a dedicated session on the mental health impacts on climate change. On request of participants, the webinars for Northern Territory focused on skills to develop a campaign.

Participants in both training programs reported increased confidence in advocating climate action to decision-makers. Participants also valued the opportunity for networking and strategising with colleagues. In the Northern Territory, the webinars resulted in the formation of a loosely affiliated core group which continues to be active on climate and health.

School Strike for Climate

CAHA was part of a large effort to recruit and organise health professionals to attend the global School Strike for Climate rallies, including the widely attended Global Climate Strike in September 2019. CAHA helped to promote the rally and organise health contingent coordinators in cities and towns across the country.

Pillar 2

Climate change is recognised as a health issue

A growing area of our work is connecting climate change and health in the public's mind. People care about their health, therefore by building public understanding that climate change harms our health, and that acting on climate change can bring significant health benefits, we seek to build public support for urgent climate action.

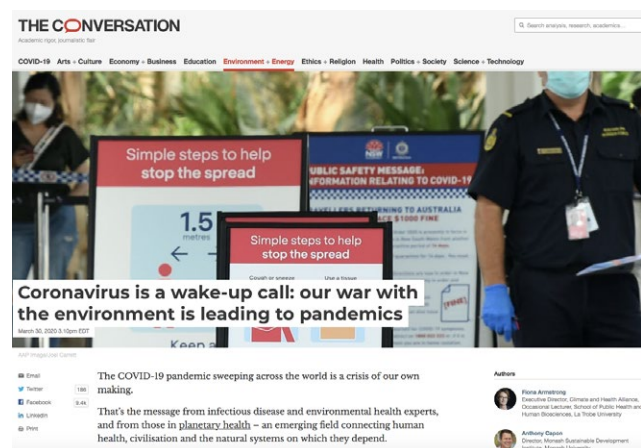
Last summer's devastating climate-fueled bushfires, and the associated air pollution from the smoke contributed to the deaths of hundreds of people, and affected large swathes of the country. The fires made visible (and breathable) the reality that climate change harms our health.

In November 2019, [CAHA coordinated a joint statement on behalf of 28 health groups](#), many our members, declaring the fires and smoke a public health emergency, and called for immediate action to address the direct health impacts of the fires and smoke, as well as climate change. This received wall-to-wall media coverage, with Fiona Armstrong appearing on Channel 7's Sunrise and ABC RN Breakfast, and CAHA member and RACP spokesperson Dr Kate Charlesworth on the Today Show. As the crisis continued and the bushfire smoke blanketed Melbourne, [CAHA called for improved government alert and information systems](#) to help protect people's health from the smoke pollution.

At the beginning of 2020, we began our two-year 'Real, Urgent and Now: communicating the health impacts of climate change' (RUN) project, kindly funded by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation. This project has two streams: (1) working directly with individual health professionals to get their expertise and trusted voices communicating about climate change and health in the media, and (2) support a small cohort of health organisations to communicate to their members and the public on climate change and health. The COVID-19

disruption has impacted on our original project timeline; however in the project's first phase, we have confirmed five RUN partner organisations: Public Health Association of Australia, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, Australian Medical Students' Association and the Australian Health Promotion Association. We began the process of interviewing organisational leadership to better understand their needs in this area, and have begun surveying their members on their understanding and experience on climate change and health. The next phase will see CAHA developing resources and providing support to RUN partner organisations and other CAHA members to more effectively communicate the health impacts of climate change.

In February 2020, CAHA launched our 'Climate Change is a Health Emergency' campaign, aiming to further connect climate change and health by supporting health organisations to declare a climate health emergency and secure media coverage on climate and health. We also held a 'Health in the Climate Emergency Forum' as part of the 2020 National Climate Emergency Summit, run by the Sustainable Living Foundation, which included Victorian Chief Health Officer Professor Brett Sutton, and former CAHA President Dr Liz Hanna.



As the COVID-19 pandemic hit Australia, Fiona Armstrong penned [this widely-read article in The Conversation](#), along with Tony Capon and Ro McFarlane, explaining how COVID-19, climate change and the biodiversity crisis share common origins: humanity's war on nature. Fiona was subsequently invited onto ABC TV Weekend Breakfast to discuss these connections further.

We were pleased to accept an invitation from the Emergency Leaders for Climate Action to the National Bushfire and Climate Summit in May 2020, and even more pleased to secure [the inclusion of one of our key recommendations in the Summit Report](#), calling for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Wellbeing for Australia as a important initiative to strengthen emergency and disaster preparedness to protect health and avoid loss of life, as well as invest in mitigation to avert further escalation of catastrophic bushfire conditions.

Pillar 3

Decision-makers act on climate to protect health

CAHA regularly engages with and advocates to elected representatives at all levels of government, as well as representatives from relevant departments and agencies to ensure that action on climate change and health is on the political and policy agenda.

Advocating to federal parliament

CAHA partnered with independent member for Indi, Helen Haines MP, and the Parliamentary Friendship Group for Climate Action, to host a Parliamentary Briefing on Climate Change and Health in October 2019. Parliamentarians from across the political spectrum attended and heard from CAHA President Amanda Adrian, Dr Liz Hanna, Dr Kathryn Bowen and Misha Coleman.

Federal CAHA met with the Office of Health Minister Greg Hunt in 2019 and again in 2020 following the summer bushfires to encourage the government to commit to a National Strategy on Climate Change, Health and Well-being for Australia. Unfortunately there has been no such commitment forthcoming.

We're pleased to note a commitment from Shadow Health Minister Chris Bowen and Shadow Climate Change Minister Mark Butler that the Australian Labor Party remains committed to implementation of a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Wellbeing, based on the Framework we developed.

Over the past twelve months, CAHA has also met with the Office of Senator Jacqui Lambie, the Office of Zali Steggall, and Australian Greens Leader Adam Bandt MP.

Fiona Armstrong and CAHA Vice President Rebecca Patrick attended a consultation on the National Preventive Health Strategy in Melbourne, each highlighting climate change as a priority for this policy agenda.

A Climate Change Bill

CAHA has supported the development of the Climate Change Bill and accompanying petition being proposed by Zali Steggall MP, and supported by cross bench MPs Andrew Wilkie, Helen Haines, and Rebekha Sharkie. Dr Kate Charlesworth represented CAHA at the launch of the Draft Bill in Parliament House in Canberra in February 2020.

Eden Monaro By-Election

CAHA made key interventions in the lead up to the Eden-Monaro federal by-election. CAHA organised one of our members, Dr Arnagretta Hunter, to attend the Eden-Monaro Climate Resilience forum and ask the Labor candidate, Kristy McBain, whether Labor is still committed to implementing our National Strategy on Climate Change, Health and Well-being for Australia policy agenda. Kristy has indicated her support, and we secured coverage of her comments in this Guardian piece about the by-election. We then invited our supporters to chip in to run a 'Vote climate to protect our health' advertisement in a local newspaper and online ahead of the election.

Air pollution advocacy

Thanks to a grant from the Sunrise Project, CAHA has been able to join a coalition of organisations in advocating for stronger national air quality

standards, as the National Environment Protection Council undertook a longer overdue process to review its standards.

We made a submission on the proposed variation to the ambient air quality measure standards for ozone (O3), nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and sulfur dioxide (SO2), and worked with experts from partner organisations to develop an Expert Position Statement to guide advocacy on the issue, including Lung Health Research Centre, Environmental Justice Australia, Doctors for the Environment Australia, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Lung Foundation of Australia, Melbourne Energy Institute, Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub, University of Melbourne, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

We supported member organisations to write and attend meetings with their relevant Environment Minister, requesting support for stronger standards through the Council. Several CAHA members wrote to their Environment Ministers, and we joined members from CAHA and the broader coalition of organisations at lobbying meetings with (then) Tasmanian Environment Minister Peter Gutwein, ACT Environment Minister Mick Gentleman, NT Environment Minister Eva Lawler, Queensland Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch, and the office of Victorian Environment Minister Lily D'Ambrosio.

Figure 1

Seven Areas of Policy Action and Guiding Principles, from the CAHA Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Wellbeing for Australia, 2017.



National environmental laws

CAHA made a submission to the Review of the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act urging reforms to include consideration of human health and climate change in our national environment laws. As the Australian government moved to amend the laws before the independent review had been completed, CAHA partnered with Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) to launch an open letter from over 180 health professionals calling for stronger laws to protect the natural environment and, with it, our health.

Nobel Laureate Professor Peter Doherty was one of the signatories to the letter, which was reported on by the [Guardian](#) and [SBS](#). Fiona followed up the letter by [writing this opinion piece](#) in the [Canberra Times](#) with DEA's Dr Katherine Barraclough.

Subnational policy advocacy

CAHA has held meetings with the ACT Climate Change Minister Shane Rattenbury, then Tasmanian Environment Minister Peter Gutwein, Tasmanian Speaker Sue Hickey and Tasmanian Greens Leader Cassy O'Connor, urging them to implement climate and health policy and to advocate for a national strategy.

CAHA has played a key role in the WA Climate Health Inquiry, providing a detailed submission, and we were invited to give expert testimony to the Inquiry hearing. We also partnered with Doctors for the Environment Australia in WA to conduct a Forum on Climate and Health with Inquiry Chair Dr Tarun Weeramanthri.

We are delighted to see CAHA's climate and health policy framework and key areas of policy action reflected in the report from [Tasmanian Climate Change and Health Roundtable: Priority areas and identified actions](#) released by Tasmanian Public Health Services and the Tasmanian Climate Change Office in June 2020. This report followed a Roundtable held in Hobart in April 2019, which

CAHA participated in. The Report outlines 42 actions across seven priority areas, drawn from the National Strategy on Climate, Health and Wellbeing for Australia (see below).

We are pleased to note some advances in Victoria on climate change and health, with the release of the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan including climate change as a top priority. We have met with VicHealth CEO Dr Sandro Demaio to raise the issue of tackling climate change as a health promotion issue, and had the opportunity to present at the PHAA VIC branch AGM along with Dr Demaio and David Malone from Victoria Department of Health and Human Services on the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. We also welcome the release of Victoria's 'Tackling climate change and its impacts on health through municipal public health and wellbeing planning: guidance for local government' to support councils to "protect and improve the health and wellbeing of their communities through climate change action".

In the ACT, the Government's Climate Change Strategy includes a commitment to ACT Health joining our Green and Healthy Hospitals network, and the NT Health Minister has recently made a similar pledge. In another welcome sign of leadership, NT Health has also established a climate and health advisory committee in the department.

In response to a request from the Office of the NSW Health Minister in late 2019, CAHA has provided comprehensive guidance on the financial savings available from the implementation of environmental sustainability in healthcare initiatives. We are yet to receive confirmation of further action in relation to this.



Coordinated in the
Pacific region by



Pillar 4

Health sector is climate resilient and sustainable

CAHA's Sustainable Healthcare Program continues to support the health sector to be climate smart and sustainable. The Program is delivered primarily by coordinating the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) network in the Pacific region (Australia and New Zealand). GGHH is a worldwide network of hospitals, health services and health organisations working to reduce the environmental impacts of healthcare and foster a healthy future for people and the planet. CAHA's international partner, Health Care Without Harm, which coordinates GGHH worldwide, provides a regrant to CAHA to manage and expand the GGHH network in our region.

As of 30 June 2020, there were 87 GGHH members in the Pacific region representing over 1,700 hospitals and health services. Twenty-five health institutions joined the network in FY 19/20, including the Queensland Department of Health, Western Australia Country Health Service and the Australian Medical Association. To join the network, each member endorses the GGHH Agenda, a comprehensive framework of ten interconnected goals designed to support hospitals and health systems around the world to achieve greater sustainability and to contribute to improved public and environmental health.

Our GGHH members are being recognised for their progress internationally, with three GGHH Pacific region members awarded a total of six Health Care Climate Champion Awards between them in 2019! The Climate Champion Awards recognise health institutions who have joined the Health Care Climate Challenge, and are reducing their emissions, preparing for the impacts of climate change, and/or showing leadership for climate action.

Winners include:

- Auckland District Health Board – Gold GHG Reduction (Energy), Gold Climate Resilience, & Gold Climate Leadership Awards
- Counties Manukau District Health Board - Silver GHG Reduction (Energy) & Gold Climate Leadership Awards
- UnitingCare Queensland – Silver Climate Leadership Award



Three case studies by GGHH Pacific region members were added to the [GGHH case study library](#) in FY 2019-2020. These case studies demonstrate some of the many ways members are improving environmental sustainability at their health institutions:

- [Reducing hunger and food waste in our community](#) – Melbourne Health, Australia
- [Developing an Environmental Sustainability Plan](#) - South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD), New South Wales, Australia
- [Greening Operating Rooms: Compostable Drug Trays](#) – Auckland District Health Board, New Zealand

Together with Western Health and the Institute for Healthcare Engineering Australia, with support from the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, CAHA hosted the Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum over

two days in September 2019. The Forum focused on the big picture changes needed within our healthcare system to address climate change and environmental sustainability, as well as what can be done in individual hospitals and health services to reduce healthcare's environmental impacts.

Opening addresses were delivered by Natasha Toohey, Executive Director of Operations at Western Health and Anthony Carbines MP, Victorian Parliamentary Secretary for Health. Keynote speaker Terence Jeyaretnam, Partner, Climate Change and Sustainability at EY, presented on Climate Risk and Corporate Governance. The forum also featured the Australian launch of the [Healthcare's Climate Footprint: How the Health Sector Contributes to the Global Climate Crises and Opportunities for Action](#) report developed by Health Care Without Harm and Arup. One hundred and thirty-eight people attended across the two days of the Forum. Further details are available in the [Forum report](#) [here](#).

GGHH Pacific Region Members

Victoria

[Abilita](#)

[Ambulance Victoria](#)

[Austin Health](#)

[Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation - Victorian Branch](#)

[Bairnsdale Regional Health Service](#)

[Bendigo Health](#)

[Cabrini Health](#)

[Dental Health Services Victoria](#)

[Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria](#)

[Epworth Healthcare](#)

[Goulburn Valley Health](#)

[Hepburn Health Service](#)

[IPC Health](#)

[Kilmore and District Hospital](#)

[Kooweerup Regional Health Service](#)

[Manningham Day Procedure Centres \(MDPC\)](#)

[Melbourne Health](#)

[North Eastern Sustainability and Health Group](#)

[North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network](#)

[Northeast Health Wangaratta](#)

[Northern Health](#)

[Peninsula Health](#)

[South West Healthcare](#)

[Tallangatta Health Service](#)

[West Wimmera Health Service](#)

[Western Health](#)

[Victorian Allied Health Professionals Association](#)

New South Wales

[Family Planning New South Wales](#)

[Gosford Private Hospital](#)

[Hunter New England Local Health District](#)

[New South Wales Nurses and Midwives Association](#)

[Prince of Wales Private Hospital](#)

[Queanbeyan Hospital](#)

[Royal North Shore Hospital](#)

[South Western Sydney Local Health District](#)

[St John of God Burwood](#)

[St John of God Richmond](#)

[St Vincent's Lismore](#)

[Sydney Children's Hospitals Network](#)

[Sydney Local Health District](#)

[South Eastern Sydney Local Health District](#)

[Sydney Surgical Centre](#)

[Uniting War Memorial Hospital](#)

[Western Sydney Local Health District](#)

South Australia

[Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation – South Australian Branch](#)

[Burnside War Memorial Hospital](#)

[Women's and Children's Hospital](#)

Queensland

[Beautesert Hospital](#)

[Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service](#)

[Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service](#)

[Department of Health, Queensland](#)

[Far North Queensland Sustainability in Health](#)

[Mater Misericordiae Health Services Brisbane Limited](#)

[Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital](#)

[Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union](#)

[Princess Alexandra Hospital](#)

[Uniting Care Queensland](#)

Tasmania

[Public Health Services,
Department of Health,
Tasmania](#)

[Tasmania Health Service
– South](#)

[UTAS Rural Clinical School](#)

[Western Australia](#)

[Broome Regional Health
Campus](#)

[Child and Adolescent
Health Service](#)

[East Metropolitan Health Service](#)

[King Edward Memorial Hospital](#)

[Rural Clinical School of
Western Australia](#)

[Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne
Park Health Care Group](#)

[South Metropolitan Health
Service, Western Australia](#)

[WA Country Health Service](#)

[WA Country Health Service,
South West Coastal Region](#)

National

[Australian Healthcare &
Hospitals Association](#)

[Australian Medical Association](#)

[Australian Medical Students’
Association](#)

[Children’s Healthcare
Australasia](#)

[Healthy Futures](#)

[Institute of Healthcare
Engineering, Australia](#)

[Mercy Health](#)

[Southern Cross Care
\(NSW & ACT\)](#)

[St Vincent’s Health Australia](#)

New Zealand

[Auckland District Health Board](#)

[Bay of Plenty District
Health Board](#)

[Capital and Coast District
Health Board](#)

[Counties Manukau District
Health Board](#)

[Hawke’s Bay District Health
Board](#)

[Northland District
Health Board](#)

[Southern Cross
Hospitals Limited](#)

[Turner Lim Orthodontist](#)

[Waitemata District
Health Board](#)

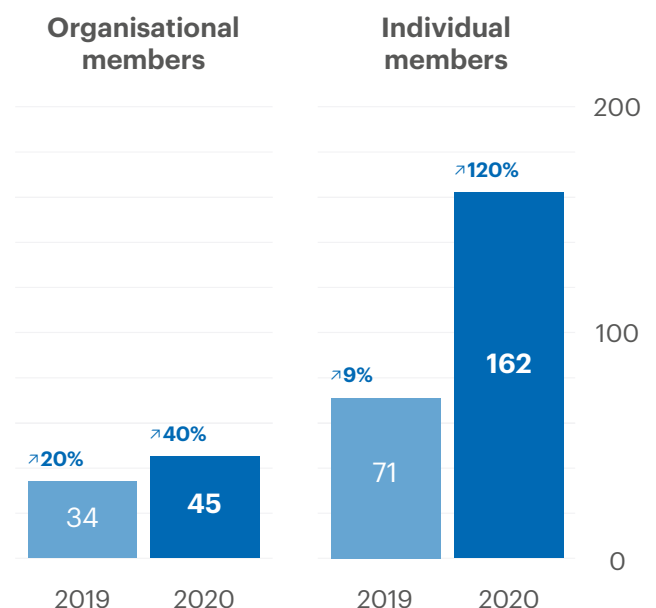
Pillar 5

Our Alliance grows in size and influence

As we reported above, there has been strong membership growth in CAHA over the last twelve months. Growing our membership not only provides important funding to support our core operations, but it also amplifies our influence and impact.

We have engaged in a membership drive throughout the year, inviting other organisations and individuals to join our growing movement. The process of joining and renewing membership has been partly assisted by upgrading our website to shift these transactions online – thanks to our website managers at For Purpose for assisting with this.

We're delighted to welcome so many new members, and look forward to continuing to work to build this movement to achieve the changes we know are needed to avert the worst impacts of the climate crisis.



Invitations

As CAHA grows, and we increase our level of activity, we also attract more attention and requests for support and expert advice. CAHA receives many invitations to speak at national and international events – over the past year we have given presentations at more than 20 local, national and international events and conferences, seminars, workshops and forums, reaching a combined audience of around 2,000 people.

These include:

In 2019

1. Roundtable on Health service responses to the impacts of climate change (Sydney) (40)
2. Wyndham Council, Green Living Series (20)
3. Public Health Association of Australia (VIC branch) Annual Seminar (30)
4. Australian College of Health Service Managers Annual Congress (150)
5. Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA) (30)
6. Sydney Science Week, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (150)
7. Rural Health Research Conference (Lismore) (40)
8. Yarra Climate Emergency Forum (150)
14. Activism at the Margin Conference (Melbourne) (30)
15. ANZ Private Webinar (30)
16. Geelong Sustainability Forum (30)
17. National Sustainability Conference (Brisbane) (50)
18. Climate Change and Health Community Forum, Office of Hon. Libby Coker MP (20)
19. Hip V Hype & Proud Mary Consulting, Climate Emergency Forum, M Pavilion (50)
20. Sigma Theta Tau International & Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments Webinar, Nursing in a Changing Climate: A Call to Action (100)
21. Star Health Board of Directors Meeting (10)
22. Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre, University of SA, Embassy of France, Australia, and The Conversation, Webinar, The Domino Effect: Climate Change and Pandemics (200)

In 2020

9. Philippine Nurses Association Global Summit, Boracay, Philippines (300)
10. Health Care Without Harm Asia, Climate Health Champions Workshop (60)
11. United Nations of Australia Forum (40)
12. Australian Association of Social Workers – Social Workers for Climate Action Webinars (60)
13. Australian Communities Foundation, Safeguarding the Environment Learning Circle: Climate and Health Webinar (50)
23. Public Health Association of Australia Prevention Conference (100)
24. Future-Proofing Health Care Through Climate Action Webinar (200)
25. Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation Sustainable Packaging in Healthcare Online Workshop (100)

Fundraising is a big part of the work for the CAHA team – seeking major gifts and grants from philanthropic and community foundations, and regular donations from our network of supporters. We are pleased and grateful to have secured further support over the past year from the **Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation** for our Real, Urgent and Now project, from **Community Impact Foundation (Pool of Dreams)** and from **Groundswell Giving** for advocacy work in relation to the climate-health emergency, from **Australian Communities Foundation** for our post-COVID advocacy agenda, the Rewrite the Future Roundtable series and **Health Care Without Harm** for supporting our Sustainable Healthcare program. And to the donors who wish to remain anonymous, thank you for your support.

Fundraising





Fundraising Dinner, November 2019

We held our first ever fundraising dinner in November 2019, and what a night it was. Our unofficial Ambassador and dear friend, Nobel Laureate for Medicine, Professor Peter Doherty, was gracious enough to accept our invitation to speak. Amid a shining crowd of 90 friends and supporters, including Peter's wife Penny, and LMCF CEO Catherine Brown, we revelled in his wit and wisdom, whilst savouring the gourmet delights of Brunswick's East Elevation. Thanks to all those who came, and made the night such a success, donated art works, books, prizes, and joined in the fun! Particular thanks to Adam Pulford whose enthusiasm and hard work made it such an enjoyable and successful event.



International Engagement and Influence

Global Climate and Health Alliance

We are delighted to be part of the international climate and health movement as a member of the Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA). CAHA is represented on the GCHA Board by Fiona Armstrong and Dr Ying Zhang, both of whom are also involved in the GCHA Climate Justice Working Group.

As part of GCHA, CAHA supported a global advocacy initiative on climate change and health in May 2020, with a powerful statement addressed to the G20 leaders calling for a “Healthy Recovery” to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Statement was signed by health organisations from 90 countries representing 40 million health professionals globally.

WHO Civil Society Working Group on Health and Climate

As a nominated GCHA member, CAHA is also a member of the World Health Organization (WHO) Civil Society Working Group on Health and Climate. Through this Working Group, CAHA has participated in bi-monthly meetings to prioritise and align global activities on climate change and health. CAHA Board member, Dr Ying Zhang, also represents CAHA on the Advocacy Subcommittee that is progressing regional engagement with health communities on climate change, and the Research Subcommittee that is assembling a literature review to track global research priorities on climate and health. We were proud to see Ying participate in the year long Homeward Bound leadership program which saw her travel to Antarctica in December 2019, all while co-chairing the 2019 MJA-Lancet Countdown report on health and climate change.

Dr Ying Zhang campaigning for *Our Climate, Our Health*. in Antarctica



Beyond COVID-19

We also joined with our strategic partners, Health Care Without Harm, in issuing the Beyond COVID-19: Toward healthy people, a healthy planet, justice, and equity statement with its global network of health organisations working across 11 countries, spanning five continents. The statement highlights the essential role of health sector leadership in leading socially just action on the climate and biodiversity crisis, and calls for a “health in all policies” and “systems change” approach in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. It also declares support for the World Health Organization’s Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19.

COP25 Madrid

As with many previous years, CAHA sent a delegation to the 25th UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP25) in Madrid, December 2019. CAHA delegates Milly Burgess, Ingrid Johnston, Rashmi Venkatraman, and Melissa Haswell joined an international health delegation promoting the health co-benefits of climate action to motivate greater ambition in countries’ Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement.

Left to Right: Melissa Haswell, Rashmi Venkatraman, Milly Burgess and Ingrid Johnston in Madrid.





Finance

Acting Treasurer's Report

Michael Wheelahan

Maintaining and strengthening CAHA's financial sustainability is fundamental to the organisation delivering on its mission for its members. In 2019-2020 CAHA has increased its income and strengthened its financial position.

This financial year CAHA (like many other not-for-profit organisations) has had to adopt three new accounting standards for its financial reporting. These new standards require some explanation to make sense of this year's accounts.

Changes to accounting standards

The most significant change is due to CAHA using AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers. This new standard requires CAHA to account for its revenue differently to how it accounted for it previously.

For grant funded projects, which represent the bulk of CAHA's revenue, CAHA usually receives the grant at the start of the project. Under the previous accounting standard revenue from the grant was recognised over time as work was completed on the project. Under the new AASB 15, revenue is recognised according to performance milestones set out in the grant agreement. AASB 15 tends to delay the time when grant income is recognised as income for CAHA.

The change has increased CAHA's revenue as reported for the year by \$90,701 and liabilities for the year by \$90,701. Other new accounting standards that CAHA has had to adopt are AASB 1058 Income for Not-For-Profit Entities and AASB 16 Leases. These standards had less impact on the accounts than AASB 15.

For details of the impact of AASB 15 and the other accounting standard changes, please see the notes to CAHA's financial statements.

2019–2020 Financial Outcomes

In the 2019–2020 financial year, CAHA has grown its revenue to \$372,104 from \$264,410 in 2018–2019. Note that using the new standard AASB 15 has increased revenue for 2019–2020 by \$90,701 compared to the situation if AASB 15 were not adopted. To aid comparison with revenue in 2018–2019, if AASB were not adopted, CAHA's revenue for 2019–2020 would have been \$281,403 – that is, \$90,701 lower. This represents significant growth for the organisation compared to 2018–2019. This is a pleasing continuation of our growth on which we seek to build.

Full details of the impacts of the new accounting standards are set out in CAHA's financial statements.

Compared to the 2018-19 financial year, membership income has remained steady while donations and project revenue have grown. CAHA's main source of revenue for the 2019-2020 year was project revenue at \$235,354, up from \$195,487 in the prior year. Donation revenue increased to \$45,545 from \$3,308 in the prior year. Membership income was \$57,474 compared to \$63,425 in the prior year. Other revenue of \$33,493 was received, comprising mainly the Commonwealth Government's Covid-19 cashflow boost payments.

The bulk of the organisation's revenue is spent on employing our excellent staff to carry out the work of the organisation - CAHA's main expense for the year was personnel costs at \$259,607. The next largest expense item was conference and project expenses of \$45,070.

Deductible Gift Recipient Status

The CAHA Board has been developing a proposal for its members to revise its Rules to support an application for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. Should CAHA gain DGR status, it would allow donors to tax deduct their donations, thus making giving to CAHA more attractive and strengthening our financial sustainability.

Appreciation

I would like to thank CAHA Treasurer Kim Daire for her big contribution to CAHA (Kim is currently on maternity leave) and Tricia Middel for maintaining our accounts so well. I would also like to thank CAHA's auditors, KPMG, who for the third year running have completed our audit on a pro-bono basis. We are very grateful for the support KPMG have provided throughout this and our previous audits.

**We are building a powerful health
sector movement for climate action.
Join us at caha.org.au**