

Media advisory For immediate release

27 November 2015

Thousands of nurses, doctors, and public health professionals take to the streets to demand climate action

Nurses, doctors, public health professionals and others, along with nursing and medical students, will take to the streets this afternoon and this weekend to demand more ambitious and stronger action on climate change from Australian governments.

They will join hundreds of thousands of people taking similar actions around the world this weekend, as more than 190 nations prepare to gather in Paris at the UN Climate Summit to forge a new global climate agreement.

People from all sectors of society will mobilise for more than 2000 events in over 150 countries for the Global Climate March on the weekend before world leaders open the negotiations. Together, they are demanding that governments agree to a deal that protects vulnerable communities and scales up a just transition away from fossil fuels to a world powered by 100% renewable energy for all.

Health professionals and students will join people from faith groups, business and industry, unions, social justice, environment, education, academia, small business, rural, remote and Indigenous communities in marches across Australia, starting **in Melbourne** at 5.30pm today, in Darwin and Brisbane on Saturday 28th November, and in Canberra, Sydney and Hobart on Sunday 29th November. For more details, see www.peoplesclimate.org.au

Health professionals from around the world will gather in Paris from next Monday for the global climate talks, with several high level meetings being held in parallel with the UN climate talks, including a <u>Global Climate and Health Summit</u> on 5th December 2015.

Media contacts for People's Climate Marches in Australia:

For photos and interviews with doctors, nurses, or other health professionals at the Australian People's Climate Marches, contact:

Melbourne: Dr Harry Jennens 0417418 225 harry@healthyfutures.net.au

Brisbane: Sue Cooke 0429 776 552 suecooke@bigpond.net.au

Sydney: Dr Peter Sainsbury 0407 103 084 peter.sainsbury@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

Canberra: Dr Liz Hanna 0418 995 504 liz.hanna@anu.edu.au

Hobart: Dr Elizabeth Haworth 0488 291 311 Elizabeth.haworth@utas.edu.au

Media contacts for health at the COP21:

For more information about health meetings during COP21, contact Fiona Armstrong, Executive Director, Climate and Health Alliance: 0438 900 005 fiona.armstrong@caha.org.au

Background to the People's Climate March: The UN Climate Summit in Paris is an opportunity for over 190 countries to build a platform which scales up the just transition away from fossil fuels to 100% renewable energy for all, and provides adequate support for those affected by climate impacts. Climate change is already harming communities all around the world and millions of people could be displaced, forced into poverty, lose their homes and livelihoods or be injured or lose their lives from extreme weather events - if we do not rapidly scale up climate action. The solutions are available to tackle the problem – with communities, cities and businesses are leading the way in harnessing the benefits of renewable energy and boosting the resilience of vulnerable communities. It is time for governments to listen to the people on the streets and step up with ambitious climate action to protect their citizens.

* For photo/videos of health professionals marching for climate action, see contacts above.







