

Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Pacific Region Annual Report 2021/22



Coordinated in the
Pacific region by



Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) Pacific Region Annual Report 2021/22

About Global Green and Healthy Hospitals **1**

Health Care Climate Challenge	3
Race to Zero (RtZ)	3
About GGHH Pacific Region	4
What we do	5

GGHH Pacific region 2021-22 **6**

GGHH Pacific Region Members in Action **7**

Health Care Climate Challenge & Climate Champion Awards	8
Race to Zero	10
Member Decarbonisation Commitments	11
Member Spotlights	13

Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum 2021 **16**

Join us **18**

Contact: gghh@caha.org.au

Released: March 2023



Coordinated in the
Pacific region by



Suite 4.13, Level 4, 247–251 Flinders Lane,
Melbourne VICTORIA 3000, Australia

© Climate and Health Alliance 2023



Royal Darwin Hospital Campus Greening Project: which is establishing culturally safe, cool, restorative green spaces that promote adaptation to our warming climate while improving local biodiversity.

About Global Green and Healthy Hospitals



Established by Health Care Without Harm in 2011, Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) is a collaborative network of health institutions that are committed to reducing their ecological footprint and promoting public and environmental health.

In 2022 the GGHH network now includes over 1,650 members, representing over 60,000 hospitals and health services across 80 countries.

GGHH is based around a framework of 10 interconnected goals outlined in the GGHH Agenda. All GGHH members endorse this agenda when they become members.



LEADERSHIP

Prioritise environmental health as a strategic imperative



CHEMICALS

Substitute harmful chemicals with safer alternatives



WASTE

Reduce, treat and safely dispose of healthcare waste



ENERGY

Implement energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy generation



WATER

Reduce hospital water consumption and supply potable water



TRANSPORTATION

Improve transportation strategies for patients and staff



FOOD

Purchase and serve sustainably grown, healthy food



PHARMACEUTICALS

Prescribe appropriately, safely manage and properly dispose of pharmaceuticals



BUILDINGS

Support green and healthy hospital design and construction



PURCHASING

Buy safer and more sustainable products and materials

GGHH is a community in which members learn from one another by sharing information and experiences to help accelerate the transition to low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable healthcare across the world.

The three goals of GGHH are to:


1



Facilitate connection


between people driving sustainable healthcare to share information, support one another and build a community of practice

2



Provide tools and resources

3



Document, promote and celebrate achievements.

GGHH provides member benefits and resources available through Connect, an online collaboration platform. Through Connect GGHH members can access:

- Resources (Guidance documents for Buildings, Waste, Water, Energy, Sustainable Procurement, and Chemicals)
- Webinar recordings
- Data management tools (available for Waste, Energy, Climate Impact Check Up Tool);
- Discussion forums;
- and a library of case studies from GGHH members in each of the 10 GGHH goal areas.

GGHH members have the opportunity to take part in global initiatives that demonstrate collective action for climate-smart healthcare, including the Health Care Climate Challenge and Race to Zero.



With a mission to heal, health care has an opportunity to use its ethical, economic, and political influence to be a climate leader.

Health Care Climate Challenge

The Health Care Climate Challenge engages and equips health care institutions – from small clinics to large health systems to ministries of health – to commit to effective climate action while building collective impact across countries and across borders. The awards recognise health institutions for their work on climate change across three broad categories:

1

Mitigation

Reducing health care's own carbon footprint and/or fostering low carbon health care

2

Resilience

Preparing for the impacts of extreme weather and the shifting burden of disease

3

Leadership

Educating staff and the public while promoting policies to protect public health from climate change

To take part in the Challenge, health institutions first sign the Climate Challenge Pledge, then report their mitigation, resilience and leadership actions annually (as available and appropriate).

Health institutions taking part in the Challenge are contributing to a global collaborative effort to address climate change within the health sector, and have the opportunity to be internationally recognised for their efforts through the annual Health Care Climate Champions Awards.

Race to Zero (RtZ)

Race to Zero (RtZ) is a global campaign initiated by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to rally leadership and support from non-state actors for a healthy, resilient, zero-carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth. All members are committed to the same overarching goal: reducing emissions across all scopes swiftly and fairly in line with the Paris Agreement, with transparent action plans to achieve 50% greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest.

About GGHH Pacific Region

The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) is proud to coordinate the Pacific region of the GGHH network (since 2012), which includes 100+ health institutions across Australia and New Zealand.

Coordinating the GGHH Pacific Network contributes to CAHA's mission to build a powerful health sector movement for climate action and sustainable healthcare. One of CAHA's core strategies is to support the health sector to cut emissions and build climate health resilience.

You can read further information about CAHA's work in the [2021/22 Annual Report](#), the [Ten Year of Impact Report](#), and the [2020 – 2023 Strategic Plan](#). Our previous 2020-21 GGHH Pacific Annual Report can be viewed [here](#).



This past year I've been consistently inspired by the persistence, ingenuity, and ambition of GGHH members in Australia and New Zealand as they work to improve their environmental footprint and protect our health. A big thank you to all the sustainable healthcare champions who are undertaking this work, no matter how big or small you think your contribution may be!

Carol Behne

Sustainable Healthcare Program Manager, Climate and Health Alliance

What we do

Quarterly online member meetings

CAHA facilitates online Pacific region GGHH member meetings every quarter. These meetings are an opportunity for members to hear from guest speakers on an array of sustainable healthcare topics and connect with sustainable healthcare champions throughout our region.



Email group

The GGHH Pacific region email group facilitates communication between members in our region. A weekly round up email is sent to this group to share recent sustainable healthcare focused news, events and resources.

New member orientation meetings

We run orientation meetings for new members periodically which provides an overview of our resources, GGHH connect and an opportunity to meet fellow new GGHH members.

Sustainable Healthcare Newsletter

GGHH member's achievements feature prominently in our bi-monthly sustainable healthcare newsletter. You can [subscribe to the newsletter here](#).

Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum

The Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum has been run by Climate and Health Alliance along with a partner healthcare organisation since 2012. Further information about the 2021 forum is included in the following section.

GGHH Pacific region 2021-22

In 2021-22, our GGHH membership increased to 125 members, representing 2,000 individual hospitals, health services and health organisations.



NEW MEMBERS

Australian College of Nursing
Barwon Health
Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service
Christchurch Eye Surgery
Cura Day Hospitals Group
Department of Health, Western Australia
Doctors for the Environment Australia
Herston Private Hospital
Kingaroy Hospital
Purple House
Sydney North Health Network
The Eye Surgery Hastings
Waikato DHB
Western District Health Service

The full current list of members can be viewed [here](#).



MEMBERS CASE STUDIES

We worked with members to release 4 new GGHH case studies. They are all accessible to GGHH members on GGHH connect. They include:

[Eco WarriERs: Reducing waste in the Fiona Stanley Hospital Emergency Department, South Metro Health Service](#)

[Establishing structures to enable climate resilient healthcare, Nepean Blue Mountains](#)

[Greening Hospitals Hackathon, Australian Medical Students Association](#)

[Removing Desflurane, South Metro Health Service](#)

The full list of GGHH Pacific case studies can be viewed on page 15-16 of the [GGHH Pacific 2020-21 Annual Report](#).



125

GGHH members in the Pacific region



representing over

2,000

hospitals and health services

As of 30 June 2022



GGHH Pacific Region Members in Action

Children's Health Queensland (CHQ) improved its recycling processes to divert 44 percent of its waste (491 tonnes) into recycling in the 2021/22 financial year.

Health Care Climate Challenge & Climate Champion Awards

The Health Care Climate Challenge is a Health Care Without Harm initiative that mobilises healthcare institutions around the world to play a leadership role in addressing climate change.

The Challenge is based on three pillars:



Mitigation

Reducing health care's own carbon footprint and/or fostering low carbon health care

1



Resilience

Preparing for the impacts of extreme weather and the shifting burden of disease

2



Leadership

Educating staff and the public while promoting policies to protect public health from climate change

3

To take part in the Challenge, health institutions first **[sign the Climate Challenge Pledge](#)**, then report their mitigation, resilience and leadership actions annually (as available and appropriate).

Health institutions taking part in the Challenge are contributing to a global collaborative effort to address climate change within the health sector, and have the opportunity to be internationally recognised for their efforts through the annual **Health Care Climate Champions Awards**.

Health Care Climate Champions

Eight members of the GGHH Pacific network were internationally recognised in the Health Care Climate Champion awards for their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve climate resilience and/or demonstrate climate leadership for climate action.



The following members received awards:

Ambulance Victoria

Gold – Climate Resilience
Gold – Climate Leadership
Silver – Renewable Energy

Auckland District Health Board

Gold – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction (Energy)
Gold – Renewable Energy
Silver – Climate Resilience
Gold – Climate Leadership

Counties Manukau District Health Board

Silver – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction (Energy)
Silver – Climate Leadership

Hunter New England Local Health District

Gold – Climate Leadership

Mater Misericordiae Limited

Silver – Climate Leadership

Northland District Health Board

Gold – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction (Energy)
Silver – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction (Non-Energy)

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service

Silver – Climate Resilience
Gold – Climate Leadership

UnitingCare Queensland

Silver – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction (Energy)
Silver – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction (Non-Energy)
Silver – Climate Resilience
Silver – Climate Leadership

These eight institutions were among 50 awardees from 15 countries who have been recognised for “stepping up as global leaders in the transformation to a sustainable, climate-smart healthcare sector”. [Read more about the awards here.](#)

RACE TO ZERO

Health Care Without Harm is the Race to Zero health care partner. **Race to Zero** is a UN-backed global campaign rallying non-state actors – including companies, cities, regions, financial and educational institutions – to take rigorous and immediate action to halve global emissions by 2030 and deliver a healthier, fairer zero carbon world in time.

All members are committed to the same overarching goal: reducing emissions across all scopes swiftly and fairly in line with the Paris Agreement, with transparent action plans and robust near-term targets.

Over 50 health care institutions representing the interests of more than 14,000 hospitals and health centers in 21 countries have joined Race to Zero with Health Care Without Harm.

Ambulance Victoria and Hunter New England Local Health District are the first GGHH Pacific region members to join the Race to Zero.



Ambulance Victoria

In 2021, **Ambulance Victoria** announced their ambitious emission reduction targets.

For scope 1 and 2 emissions (2015 baseline) Ambulance Victoria pledge to:

- 39% emissions reduction by 2025
- 60% emissions reduction by 2030
- Net zero emissions by 2045

The 60% reduction aims to reduce emission intensity per ambulance case by half.

[Read more.](#)

In 2021, Ambulance Victoria undertook a study to map the carbon pollution associated with its Triage Services and measure changes in carbon pollution resulting from the use of alternate patient care pathways.



Health Hunter New England Local Health District

Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD) made a commitment to be carbon and waste neutral by 2030 (excluding clinical waste). In 2021 the HNELHD launched their ambitious new initiative, Sustainable Healthcare: Together Towards Zero.

The initiative includes plans to further invest in renewables, rethink waste management, adopt sustainable water practices, transition to 'green' forms of transport, and support staff to be sustainability champions. Between 2020 and 2021, a 13% reduction in emissions was achieved.

[Read more here.](#)

Member Decarbonisation Commitments

Up to 30 June 2022, a growing number of members had shared their own public carbon emissions reduction targets including:

Monash Health (VIC)

carbon neutral by
2030

Mercy Health (VIC/NSW)

Net zero by
2030

North Metropolitan
Health Service (WA)

carbon zero by
2050

Ambulance Victoria

Net zero by
2045

60%
reduction by
2030

Metro North Health (QLD)

Net zero by
2050

30%
reduction by
2030

80% reduction by
2030

Sydney Children's
Hospitals Network (NSW)

Net zero by
2035

Barwon Health (VIC)

Net zero by
2050

Northern Sydney Local
Health District (NSW)

Net zero by
2035

70-80%
reduction by
2030

Uniting Care (QLD)

70%
reduction (scope 1 & scope 2) by
2030

Hunter New England
Local Health District

Carbon Neutral by
2030

State, Territory and Federal emission reduction targets are outlined below. Where the health department has made a statement about their alignment with these targets, this is included below.



For more information about policy commitments on climate and health across Australian Jurisdictions as of July 2022, read the Australian Health Leadership on Climate Action Policy Outlook.

Member Spotlights

NSW Ministry of Health Climate Risk & Net Zero Unit

In the 2021-22 financial year, the NSW Ministry of Health established a new Climate Risk & Net Zero Unit guided by the Future Health Strategy 2022-2032, with a commitment to deliver an environmentally sustainable footprint for future healthcare and contribute to Australia's net zero emissions by 2050.

The Climate Risk & Net Zero Unit has implemented several initiatives including establishing a new NSW Health Net Zero Leads program appointing 10 Net Zero Leads from across nursing, medicine and allied health to address known carbon hotspots and embed low-carbon models of care in anaesthetics, critical care, theatres and pharmacy. Other activities include sustainability network development, carbon footprinting education, carbon footprinting of two hospital facilities and the launch of a dedicated sustainable futures innovation fund.

Read more about the Climate Risk & Net Zero Unit activities on their [Climate risk and net zero \(nsw.gov.au\) webpage](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Climate-risk-and-net-zero).

The Eye Surgery Hastings

The Eye Surgery Hastings achievements during this period include becoming a Global Green and Healthy Hospitals member and committing to working actively as a team to support environmental stewardship within healthcare. A small rooftop solar farm was installed in May 2022, which was projected to produce 150% of the annual electricity usage. New Zealand's first solar-power operation was performed in May 2022 and since then The Eye surgery Hastings have continued to enjoy a fully solar-powered operating theatre. There is an ongoing cycle of improving procurement processes underway.

Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District

Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (LHD) is working towards a sustainable, healthier and greener future for their community, patients and staff. Solar panels have been progressively installed across our hospitals and facilities, now providing 1,023kW of energy. The adoption of hybrid fleet cards has also seen the LHD exceed the NSW Government's 10 per cent target with almost 80 per cent of our fleet passenger vehicles now hybrid. We were also successfully selected to participate in the Ministry of Health's Climate Risk and Net Zero Unit carbon footprinting initiative. As one of only two hospitals to be selected, modelling of Nepean Hospital will determine how to best create a climate resilient health system by reducing and offsetting greenhouse gases emitted when providing health care.

The continued use of working groups to investigate building and energy, climate resilience, transport, and waste management sees the LHD track progress towards mandatory and aspirational targets, reporting to its Sustainability Committee. Climate change risk is also a focus with several services workshopping adaptation strategies to ensure our services and facilities can deliver first-class health care in an uncertain future.



Children's Health Queensland

Children's Health Queensland (CHQ) improved its recycling processes to divert 44 percent of its waste (491 tonnes) into recycling in the 2021/22 financial year. Clinicians and staff who are part of CHQ's Environmental Stewardship Network have championed ways to reduce the hospital's waste footprint including setting up a no waste kitchen and replacing single-use plastic trays in patient rooms with reusable trays.

The Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH) in South Brisbane has an advanced recycling system with 36 single streams of waste segregation. This allows hospital waste to be valued, so that resources can be reused, repurposed and recycled by partnering with local businesses to divert salvage waste and develop circular economies in our community. QCH's 'Donations in Kind' program allows patients and families to return single-use rehabilitation equipment such as crutches and moonboots so it can be donated for international aid.

CHQ's environmental sustainability initiatives have resulted in cost savings of more than \$580,000 for CHQ. It is now cheaper for the health service to recycle than it is to send waste to landfill.



Royal Darwin Hospital

The Sustainable Healthcare Committee was created in 2021 to begin the process of reducing the waste and emissions arising from healthcare in the Territory. At the same time the committee sought to adapt to and mitigate the increasing health and wellbeing threats posed by climate change in the wet tropics

To date our committee's initiatives include:

- RDH Campus Greening Project: which is establishing culturally safe, cool, restorative green spaces that promote adaptation to our warming climate while improving local biodiversity. More than 750 native trees have been planted in over 100 different species, largely through the volunteer efforts of staff and members of the local community. The project has ongoing collaboration with senior Larrakia elders to showcase species of Indigenous cultural significance, in an effort to make RDH campus more welcoming to Indigenous patients who remain over-represented in Territory hospitals.
- The project tessellates with an Active Mobility campaign across Royal Darwin and Palmerston Regional Hospitals which promotes wellness and emissions reduction through cycling and walking. This campaign includes developing incentives to promote the uptake of ebikes and seeking investment in cycling paths and end of trip facilities.



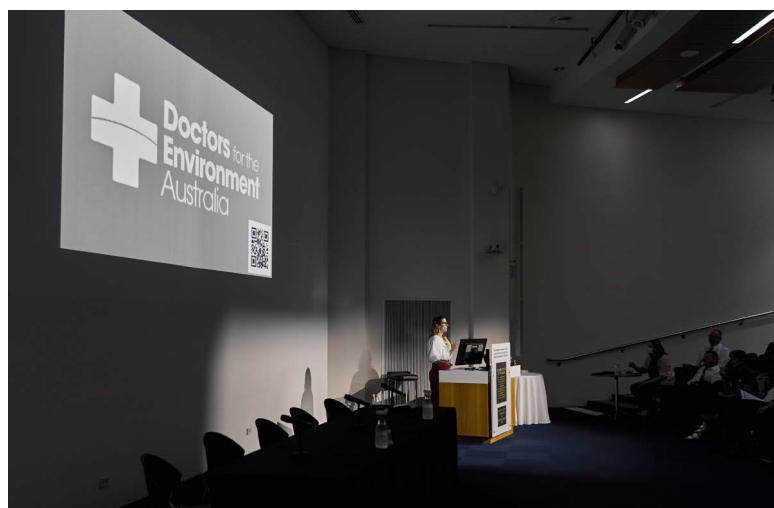
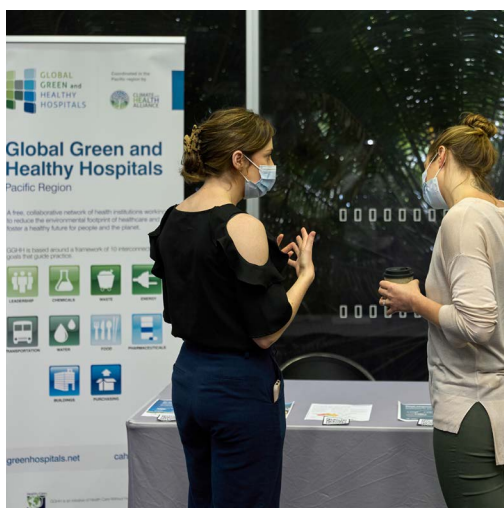
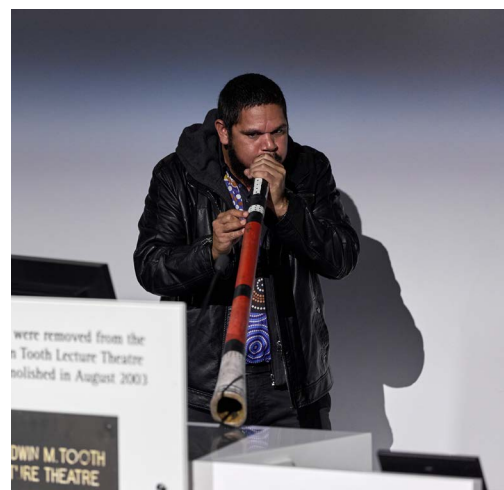
The committee has also begun mapping waste streams at Royal Darwin and Palmerston Hospitals, implemented changes to reduce the environmental leakage of pharmaceutical waste and minimise waste entering the landfill and incineration streams

NT Health has also recently implemented a 10% sustainable procurement weighting to a number of pharmaceutical tenders to encourage the market to supply products with less environmental harm, including promoting recyclable goods and the use of electric vehicles in the supply chain and reducing unnecessary packaging.

Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum 2021

In 2021, CAHA partnered with Uniting Care and host partner Metro North Health to deliver the forum. Forum objectives were to:

1. Foster connection & knowledge sharing in our region
2. Facilitate learning and upskilling
3. Showcase sustainable healthcare action underway





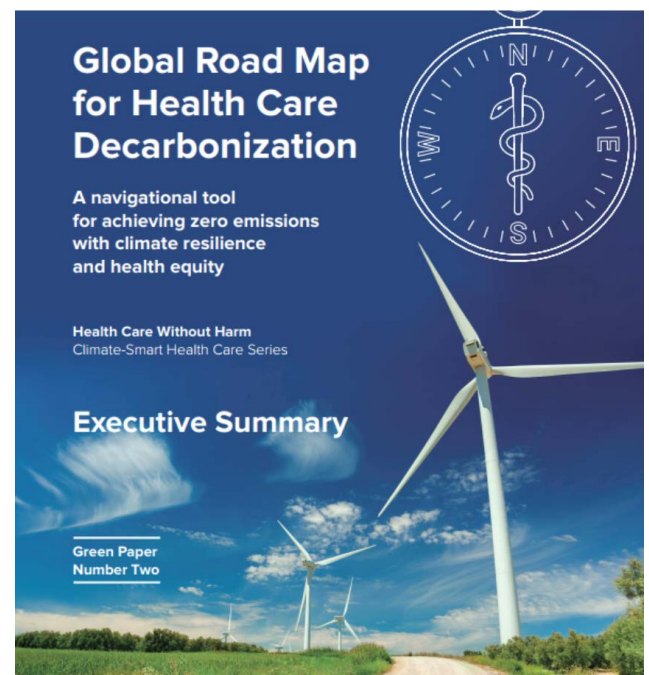
The theme was “Working towards a net zero emissions, climate resilient, equitable and environmentally sustainable healthcare sector: ensuring good health for all”.

Sessions were based on the [Global Roadmap for Healthcare Decarbonisation](#) released by Healthcare without Harm and Arup in 2021.

This included:

1. Transformation for an equitable, sustainable, resilient and low carbon health sector
2. Net zero emissions - The big 3 (Energy, Buildings and Scope 3)
3. Providing healthy, sustainably grown food + Implementing circular healthcare and sustainable healthcare waste management
4. Achieving a more effective health system
5. Climate resilience

More information about the forum is available in the report [here](#).



Join us

GGHH membership is free of charge for hospitals, health services, health and aged care facilities, health systems and health organisations.

Once an organisation becomes a member, nominated employees can access sustainable healthcare resources and connect with sustainable healthcare colleagues.

To become a member, visit the GGHH [Join the Network](#) webpage.

For questions related to GGHH and how to join, please email gghh@caha.org.au

