

# Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum 2023 Summary Report



# About the Forum

In partnership with leading healthcare stakeholders, the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) has run annual events focusing on environmentally sustainable healthcare since 2012 (excluding 2020).

The vision of the Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum is to:

- inspire healthcare stakeholders to make positive changes towards a more sustainable healthcare system;
- provide an opportunity to build connections, share knowledge, learn from others, and build new skills;
- showcase current examples of research, policy and practice supporting the transition to net zero carbon and environmentally sustainable healthcare.

In 2023, CAHA and the Western Australian Department of Health's (WA Health) Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) partnered to deliver the Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum in Perth. South Metropolitan Health Service hosted the Forum at the Fiona Stanley Hospital. The event was also fully available online.

## 2023 program

The theme of this year's forum was "Empowering action for sustainable, climate resilient healthcare". The world is striving for a low carbon, sustainable and climate resilient future – and healthcare delivery must change alongside it. It's evident we need to act – but how do we actually drive the shifts in our healthcare system we need to bring about change? How do we engage our decision makers, suppliers, our colleagues and our patients in the process? How do we overcome barriers to progress?

The forum focused on the 'how' – how do we empower action to deliver sustainable and climate resilient healthcare?

## Main program

A diverse line-up of speakers, from healthcare, government, industry partners, academia and beyond, shared their expertise on current research, policy, industry innovations and practical examples of sustainable healthcare in action.

In addition to the Welcome session, there were four sessions across two days:

- Strategy and systems
- Engagement and leadership
- Sustainability in practice
- Caring for Country

All abstracts were collated in a [Forum Attendee Booklet](#).

# Program

## Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum

14-15 SEPTEMBER 2023 Fiona Stanley Hospital, Western Australia + Online

## Program

### DAY 1

Thursday 14th September

AWST	AEST	NZST	Thursday 14th September		Speaker
8:00am	10:00am	12:00pm	Registration		
Welcome					
8:30am	10:30am	12:30pm	Introduction		Climate and Health Alliance
8:40am	10:40am	12:40pm	Welcome to Country		Robyn Collard Rioli, Whadjuk Yorga Tryse Rioli, Nyungar Tiwi Maarman
8:55am	10:55am	12:55pm	Welcome Address		Dr D J Russell-Weisz, Director General, Department of Health Western Australia (In person)
9:05am	11:05am	1:05pm	Opening Address: Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health; Mental Health		Mr Simon Millman MLA (In person)
9:15am	11:15am	1:15pm	Minister's Address: Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care		Hon Ged Kearney MP (Recording)
			Q&A		Dr Madeleine Skellern, National Health, Sustainability and Climate Unit (Online)
Session 1: Strategy and systems					
9:35am	11:35am	1:35pm	Introduction		Dr Emma-Leigh Synnott, WA Sustainable Development Unit (In person)
9:40am	11:40am	1:40pm	Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand's approach to Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience		Vicktoria Blake, Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand (Online)
9:55am	11:55am	1:55pm	How to deliver sustainable healthcare: perspectives from three countries and translation to Western Australia		Dr Sarah Joyce, WA Sustainable Development Unit (In person)
10:10am	12:10pm	2:10pm	Developing Net Zero Pathways		Nicola Groskops, Northern Sydney Local Health District (Online) Kathryn Asher, Sydney Children's Hospital Network (Online)
10:25am	12:25pm	2:25pm	Panel Q&A		
10:35am	12:35pm	2:35pm	Morning tea		

Program may be subject to change



AWST	AEST	NZST	Thursday 14th September	Speaker
<b>Session 2: Engagement and leadership</b>				
11:05pm	1:05pm	3:05pm	Platinum Sponsor Presentation	<b>Cardinal Health</b>
11:15am	1:15pm	3:15pm	Introduction	<b>Timothy Leen</b> , South Metropolitan Health Service (In person)
11:20am	1:20pm	3:20pm	Integrating climate change into leadership decision making	<b>Kim Daire</b> , STSG Consulting (Online)
11:35am	1:35pm	3:35pm	Nursing Leadership Critical For Climate Change Mitigation	<b>Jen Bardsley</b> , South Metropolitan Health Service (in person)
11:50am	1:50pm	3:50pm	A model to facilitate clinical staff involvement in sustainability and reduce healthcare emissions: an Australian-first pilot	<b>Julia Farrington</b> (NSW Ministry of Health, NSW Health), <b>Patricia Schlotfeldt</b> (Northern Sydney Local Health District), <b>Brian O'Connell</b> (Northern NSW Local Health District), and <b>Derek Kay</b> (Western NSW Local Health District) (Online)
12:05pm	2:05pm	4:05pm	Reducing bluey use: the power of a simple message	<b>Bridget Egan</b> , South Metropolitan Health Service (in person)
12:20pm	2:20pm	4:20pm	Reducing single use plastics in healthcare: Engagement in Plastic-free Innovation for Change (EPIC)	<b>Ricki Hershburgh</b> , Plastic Oceans Australasia, <b>Luke van der Beeke</b> , The Behaviour Change Collaborative
12:35pm	2:35pm	4:35pm	Panel Q&A	
12:50pm	2:50pm	4:50pm	Lunch	
<b>Session 3: Sustainability in practice</b>				
1:50pm	3:50pm	5:50pm	Platinum Sponsor Presentation	Schneider Electric
2:00pm	4:00pm	6:00pm	Introduction	<b>Dr Archana Shrivathsa</b> , Fiona Stanley & Fremantle Hospitals Group (In person)
2:05pm	4:05pm	6:05pm	Greening Healthcare: Unpacking the Toolkit for Decarbonising Healthcare Systems - A Systematic Review	<b>Dr K-lynn Smith</b> , NHMRC Partnership Centre for Health System Sustainability (In person)
2:20pm	4:20pm	6:20pm	10 Ways We Made our Urology Practice More Environmentally Sustainable	<b>Dr Ashley Lee</b> , Fiona Stanley Hospital (In person)
2:35pm	4:35pm	6:35pm	How to Clean an Eye Clinic with Zero Waste	<b>Dr Alex Buller</b> , Hastings Eye Surgery (Online)
2:50pm	4:50pm	6:50pm	Integrating climate health and sustainability principles into the clinical education curriculum	<b>Dr Sonia Chanchlani</b> , Doctors for the Environment Australia (Online)
3:05pm	5:05pm	7:05pm	Panel Q&A	
3:20pm	5:20pm	7:20pm	Session close	Climate and Health Alliance
3:25pm	5:25pm	7:25pm	Afternoon tea	
5:00pm – 6:30pm			Social event	

Program may be subject to change

# DAY 2

Friday 15th September

AWST	AEST	NZST	Friday 15th September	
Session 1: Caring for Country			Caring for Country refers to participating in activities on First Peoples’ lands and seas with the objective of promoting ecological, spiritual, and human health. This session aims to showcase health service initiatives that embrace and incorporate Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori environmental stewardship values and knowledge into mainstream healthcare practices.	
8:30am	10:30am	12:30pm	Introduction <b>Mandy Gadsdon</b> , Think Culture	
8:35am	10:35am	12:35pm	<b>Case study presentations</b> Healthy patients, workforce and environment (H3 Project): one-year review of climate adaptation and wellbeing outcomes for the Royal Darwin Hospital Campus Greening Project <b>Dr Mark De Souza</b> and <b>Aunty Dr Bilawara Lee</b> , Royal Darwin Hospital	
8:50am	10:50am	12:50pm	Water for life: Healthy Country, healthy people <b>Carol Innes AM</b> , <b>Dr Richard Walley OAM</b> , <b>Winsome MacLaurin</b> , Danjoo Koorliny - Walking Together	
9:15am	11:15am	1:15pm	Panel Discussion <b>Dr Mark De Souza</b> , Royal Darwin Hospital (online), <b>Aunty Dr Bilawara Lee</b> , Charles Darwin University (online), <b>Jessica Szwarcbord</b> , Lowitja Institute (online), <b>Dr Donna Mak</b> , Department of Health (in-person), <b>Dr Sophie Moustaka</b> , Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (online), <b>Dr Teah Carlson</b> , Massey University (online) <b>Carol Innes AM</b> , <b>Dr Richard Walley OAM</b> , <b>Winsome MacLaurin</b> , Danjoo Koorliny - Walking Together	
10:10am	12:10pm	2:10pm	Morning tea	
Concurrent workshops				
			Room 1	Sustainable Quality Improvement (SusQI): practical toolkit for climate interventions in the clinical setting <b>Dr Aditya Vyas</b> , <b>Tarah Mountford</b> , <b>Jessie Parrish</b> , <b>Allison Slater</b> (WHO Collaborating Centre for Climate Change and Health Impact Assessment, Curtin University, North Metropolitan Health Service, South Metropolitan Health Service, WA Health)
10:40am	12:40pm	2:40pm	Room 2	KN2OW Nitrous: Detecting leaks, auditing use and reducing emissions <b>Dr James Anderson</b> , <b>Dr David Ng</b> , <b>Dr Chris Mitchell</b> , <b>Dr Elliott Smith</b> (Fiona Stanley and Fremantle Hospitals, Green Theatres Network WA, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital)
			Room 3	Behaviour Change in Transitions to Sustainable Health Care <b>Dr Angie Bone</b> , <b>Dr Breanna Wright</b> , <b>Dr Emma-Leigh Synnott</b> (BehaviourWorks, Monash Sustainable Development Institute)
			Room 4	Climate communications: develop your skills <b>Alison Barrett</b> , <b>Professor Megan Williams</b> , <b>Dr Melissa Sweet (Croakey)</b>
12:10pm	2:10pm	4:10pm	Lunch	
1:10pm	3:10pm	5:10pm	Awards and closing remarks Climate and Health Alliance	
1:40pm	3:40pm	5:40pm	Tours	

Program may be subject to change

## Exhibiting and networking spaces

Exhibiting and networking spaces were provided both at the venue and online via the Virtual Event Hub. From these spaces attendees could view six posters, visit sponsor stands and engage with sustainable healthcare colleagues.

For online attendees, a virtual networking session was held on Zoom during the lunch break on Day 1.



## Social event

At the conclusion of Day 1, a Forum mixer provided an opportunity for approximately 53 Forum attendees to network and socialise.

## Workshops

On Day 2, attendees chose to attend one of four hybrid workshops, and aimed at equipping attendees with practical knowledge and skills to drive sustainable healthcare. [Read the workshop outlines.](#)



## Tours

At the conclusion of the forum, approximately 31 attendees participated in five tours covering different practical aspects of sustainability in healthcare across Fiona Stanley Hospital, St John of God Hospital and Linen Services Australia. [Read about the tours.](#)



# Awards

## Sustainable Healthcare Champion Award

In 2023, the Forum organising team called for nominations for its inaugural Sustainable Healthcare Champion Award. The award recognises a person or team who has demonstrated passion for sustainable, low-carbon, climate resilient, equitable and effective health systems. They are someone who has gone above and beyond to bring about real and tangible change.

The Forum Steering Committee selected the winner, Dr Sarah Joyce, the Sustainable Development Officer in the WA Health SDU. As Project Director for the world's first statutory inquiry into climate change and health, Sarah played a significant role in the development of the framework which has allowed the WA health system to respond to climate change and inspired positive climate action more broadly.



## Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum People's Choice Award

Attendees had the opportunity to vote for the best poster presented at the Forum. This award was presented to 'Food Organics at FSH Patient Catering' by Genaveve Palmer at the Department of Patient Catering, Fiona Stanley Hospital.

[Read more about the award recipients here.](#)

# Attendance

The Forum organising team aimed to ensure the Forum was relevant for a wide range of people working in or connected with the health sector in Australia and New Zealand.

The Forum brought together health and aged care sustainability champions, leadership and executive, government representatives, students, researchers and suppliers from across Australia and New Zealand. Together, attendees explored the big issues and solutions to fostering a healthy, sustainable future for people and the planet.

Attendee numbers included:

- 240 attendees over both days in person
- 21 group viewings (included ~135 attendees on both days)
- 162 attendees online over both days

A total of 37 expert speakers and 14 workshop facilitators took part in the Forum.

## Environmental sustainability at the Forum

To minimise the environmental footprint of the Forum:

- Attendees could join online instead of travelling to the venue
- Attendees were provided with information about how to reach the venue via active and public transport
- Carbon emissions associated with the Forum were offset
- Vegetarian/vegan catering was provided
- Waste minimised through reusable serveware where possible
- Attendees were encouraged to BYO reusable water bottles and coffee cups
- Tickets and Forum program were all available electronically for attendees

Presenters and facilitators were gifted Banksia Aroma Pods from [Banksia Gifts Australia](#).



# Attendee feedback

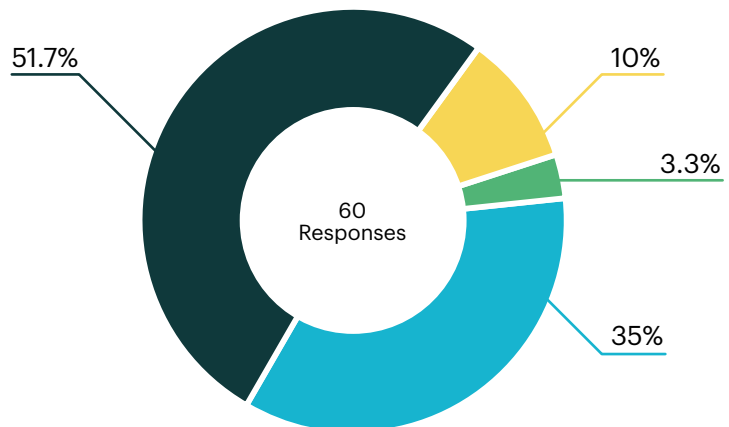
A total of 60 survey responses were received. Of these respondents, 53.3% (n=32) attended in person, 33.3% (n=20) online and 13.3% (n=8) online as a group. The majority of those who responded attended both days (69.5%), while 25.4% attended day 1 and 5.1% attended day 2.

## Overall satisfaction

86.7% (n=52) of respondents reported that they were either very satisfied or satisfied with the Forum. The remaining responses reported satisfaction as either neutral (10%, n=6) or dissatisfied (3.3%, n=2).

### Q1. Please rate your overall level of satisfaction with the Forum

- Very Satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neutral
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied



### Participants reported satisfaction with the following aspects of the forum:

Opportunity for learning and knowledge building	4.3 ★★★★★
Opportunity to network and connect with colleagues	3.8 ★★★★★
Diverse range of knowledgeable speakers and facilitators	4.4 ★★★★★
Organisation and delivery of the Forum as a hybrid event	3.5 ★★★★★
Satisfaction with workshop content*	4.0 ★★★★★
Satisfaction with the hybrid delivery of the workshop*	3.9 ★★★★★

*\*Please note that there were 44 respondents to questions regarding the workshops*

**The key areas which respondents reported they liked most about the Forum included:**

- Caring for Country session
- Quality of presentations and diversity of speakers
- Opportunity to participate in workshops and tours
- Practical message from presentations
- Opportunity to network with others

**“Engaging presentations, some excellent speakers showcasing some impressive work that is occurring.”**

**“Learning about what is happening across Australia and NZ. It is not often that you can be involved in this type of forum to increase your knowledge.”**

**“High calibre of presenters, and great diversity of topics. Excellent and meaningful Caring for Country session.”**

**“Very inspirational forum which left me with a sense of hope that I can make a difference at my own health care organisation”**

### **Key lessons respondents reported they learnt from the Forum:**

- Urgency of action
- The importance of working with First Nations peoples and embedding Caring for Country into healthcare initiatives
- Small changes can result in big impacts
- Current initiatives underway across Australia and New Zealand
- Collaboration and breaking down of silos is needed for effective implementation of strategies
- Need for top down and bottom up efforts

**“First nations learnings were rich, and if we all valued the land as they have, we would be better off. The importance of student and clinician education re climate change; and the importance of exercise as transport and to promote health, whilst warding off noncommunicable diseases”**

**“Many facilities are making much effort to reduce waste and use more environmentally friendly practices. Changes need to be made from the executive level, and they need to see past the immediate possible increase in costs or labour, and view it as a public health/preventative concern. The bottom line will become apparent once procedures are in place.”**

**“we all can do something - areas where you think there can't be big changes, there can be (e.g. eye clinic) - let's not make excuses, let's be bold and look at innovative ways. the need for information sharing between areas of government (between the different Health service providers)”**

**“Helped me ‘find-my-tribe’ and linked me in with resources / websites / organisations / templates / funding sources and scholarship and funding opportunities that I didn't even know existed and would have taken me a long time to find on my own.”**

**“Look to NZ for leadership in the journey towards zero carbon footprint. Learn the lessons from Sweden, Netherlands and the UK. We need a voice in Australia for Sustainable Health Care, by the people for the people, and including our First Nations people, listen to their collective wisdom. Work towards a bicultural Health Model. It all starts with Change Behaviours...”**

**Actions respondents shared they would take post forum:**

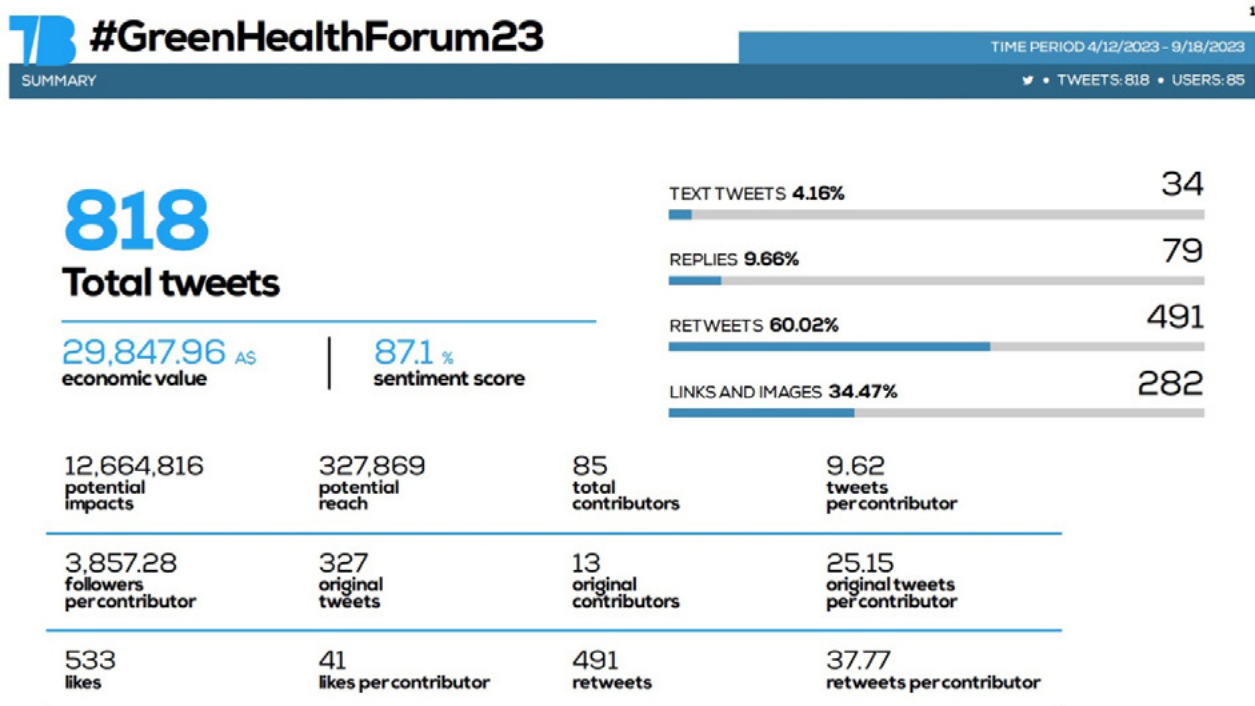
- Embed climate and health into resources for health professionals and undergraduate curriculum
- Start the conversation at their workplace
- Pursue collaboration opportunities with new contacts
- Share information and learnings with colleagues
- Start a quality improvement project
- Pursue publication of the work they have already completed
- Involve Traditional Owners in sustainability planning
- Advocate for a sustainability officer position at their organisation
- Put together a business case for implementing sustainability initiatives

**The key areas which respondents reported could be improved largely related to technical challenges related to the hybrid delivery of the Forum.**



## Forum exposure

Croakey Conference News Service was engaged to prepare a pre conference article, [“Cultural context, empowered staff and local solutions are vital for sustainable healthcare”](#) and cover live Tweeting of the Forum as well. The hashtag #GreenHealthForum23 was used.



A post forum summary article was also released via Croakey [“Wrapping the latest news on local, national and global action for sustainable and climate resilient healthcare”](#).

Session recordings and slides were provided to all registrants, speakers and facilitators. The recordings were available for purchase for those who requested following the forum for the remainder of 2023, after which it will be made freely accessible in 2024.

# Forum organisers



Coordinated in the  
Pacific region by



## Climate and Health Alliance and GGHH Pacific region

CAHA's mission is to build a powerful health sector movement for climate action and sustainable healthcare. CAHA coordinates the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) Network in the Pacific region (Australia and New Zealand). GGHH supports health institutions to reduce their environmental footprint and develop climate resilience to protect and promote public and environmental Health.



Government of  
**Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**

## Sustainable Development Unit, Western Australian Department of Health (Organising partner)

The Sustainable Development Unit's mission is to lead and coordinate a systemwide response on climate action and sustainability across WA Health. The SDU supports the WA health system to reduce its emissions, operate sustainably, and implement adaptation measures to protect the community from the health risks associated with climate change.



Government of **Western Australia**  
**South Metropolitan Health Service**

## South Metropolitan Health Service (Host partner)

The South Metropolitan Health Service's vision is to deliver 'excellent health care, every time'. Being an environmentally sustainable organisation is an integral part of delivering on this vision. As a healthcare provider, SMHS consider it their responsibility to reduce emissions for the health and wellbeing of its community and to use resources wisely for the health of the planet.

## Promotional partners



## Forum sponsors

The Forum featured both an in-person and online exhibition hall, providing an opportunity for attendees to connect with and learn about key industry players who are working on solutions to help green the healthcare sector.

Through the [Virtual Event Hub](#), attendees could view exhibitor stands, poster displays and access links to more information.

We are grateful for the support of our sponsors.

### Our Platinum Sponsors



### Our Gold Sponsors



**Together we are building  
a powerful health sector  
movement for climate action.**

**Join us at [caha.org.au](https://caha.org.au)**