



CLIMATE AND
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

July 2022 | Policy Outlook

Australian Health Leadership on Climate Action

Policy Outlook



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Recognition and Commitment

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.

Australian Health Leadership on Climate Action

Policy Outlook

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Introduction

This report provides a snapshot of policy developments on climate change and health in Australia in 2022. It aims to build a common understanding of progress to date on climate and health policy, while also identifying opportunities for, and gaps in, health leadership on climate action.

It draws on two sources of information:

- The outcomes of the second¹ **Australian Health Leadership Roundtable on Climate Action**, which took place on 29th June, 2022.
- A climate and health policy map, based on data collected by CAHA from February to June 2022 through informal consultations with senior health officials.

The Roundtable was co-hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA), and was attended by ministers and senior health officials from the Commonwealth and all state and territory governments.

The Roundtable brought together health ministries from federal, state, and territory governments to explore opportunities to align the healthcare sector with Australia's climate goals.

It introduced the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH), formerly known as the COP26 Health Programme, which encourages health ministries from around the world to pledge to take action under two commitment pathways:

- Climate Adaptation and Resilience; and
- Low Carbon and Sustainable Healthcare.

The Roundtable heard from: the Commonwealth Government (Assistant Minister for Health, the Hon Ged Kearney MP); and international guests: Ms Helen Yaxley from the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (as COP26 President); Dr Diarmid Campbell Lendrum, Head of Health and Climate Change Unit at World Health Organization; Dr Nick Watts, Chief Sustainability Officer, National Health Service in the UK; and Mr Scott Brady, Climate Programme Manager, Health Care Without Harm, Europe.

¹ The first Roundtable was held in September 2021 and was co-hosted by the government of the United Kingdom (UK) and the WHO, ahead of COP26. This inaugural event was organised by CAHA at the request of the WHO and the UK Government, ahead of COP 26.

Each of the state and territory jurisdictions shared their progress, with interventions from: NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Justin Clancy; SA Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Chris Picton; Minister for Health Government of the Australian Capital Territory Hon Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA; Deputy Chief Health Officer Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria, Dr Angie Bone; Executive Director, Health Protection Branch, Queensland Health, John Piispanen; Lead Sustainable Development Officer, Sustainable Development Unit, Public and Aboriginal Health Division, Department of Health, Western Australia, Dr Sarah Joyce; Chief Executive for Public Health Services at the Tasmanian Department of Health, Sophie Muller; and Chief Health Officer NT Health, Dr Charles Pain.

CAHA has taken all due care to ensure that the information contained in this work is accurate at the time of publication. However, this summary is not necessarily a complete representation of all existing and planned policy efforts on climate change and health in Australia. Inquiries about specific policies can be directed to individual jurisdictions.

International health leadership on climate action

Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate Change and Health (ATACH)

The COP26 UN climate conference in November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, included an official health programme for the first time.

The COP26 Health Programme was established in 2021 to catalyse global health leadership on climate action. This programme was developed by the UK government as the Presidency of COP26, the World Health Organisation (WHO), Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) and the UNFCCC Climate Champions.

Over 50 countries committed at COP26 to transform their health systems to be climate resilient and low carbon. Since then, the number of signatories has grown steadily and currently stands at almost [60 countries](#).² This includes 19 countries that have set net zero healthcare targets. In May 2022, the Health Ministers of the G7 group of wealthiest democracies [committed](#) to climate-resilient and sustainable, climate-neutral health systems, and encouraged other governments to join the initiative. From June 2022, the COP 26 Health Programme will be taken forward in the form of an **Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate Change and Health (ATACH)**, which hosted its inaugural meeting on 27 June 2022.

International speakers at the Australian Health Leadership Roundtable on Climate Action

This second Australian Health Ministries Roundtable, which took place on 29th June 2022, was attended by all Australian governments.

Helen Yaxley, Senior Policy Advisor on Climate Change and Health at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, shared the goals of ATACH programme

It will:

- Serve as a multidimensional platform for health ministries and partners to support knowledge sharing, resource mobilisation, and monitoring and tracking; and
- Build on the rapidly growing body of work on climate and health and facilitate cross-sector partnerships that can build capacity for resilience and sustainability in the health sector.

² As at 4 July 2022

Ms Yaxley laid out the six commitment areas under which governments are encouraged to take action as part of ATACH:

1. Commit to conduct climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessments (V&As) at population level and/or health care facility level by a stated target date;
2. Commit to develop a Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP) informed by the health V&A, which forms part of the National Adaptation Plan to be published by a stated target date;
3. Commit to use the V&A and HNAP to facilitate access to climate change funding for health;
4. Commit to set a target date by which to achieve health system net zero emissions;
5. Commit to deliver a baseline assessment of greenhouse gas emissions of the health system (including supply chains);
6. Commit to develop an action plan or roadmap by a set date to develop a sustainable low carbon health system (including supply chains).

It is important to note these commitments to the ATACH programme can be made by national and subnational governments, and National Adaptation Plans (HNAP) can be developed at the national and subnational level (as has already occurred in Victoria and Qld). The same applies to Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments (V&As), net zero healthcare emissions targets, baseline assessments, and healthcare decarbonisation roadmaps / action plans.

More information about the commitments can be found [here](#). A list of the governments that have formally committed to develop climate resilient and low carbon, sustainable health systems can be found [here](#).

The Climate and Health Policy Map (see Appendix 1) assesses the progress Australian governments have made in achieving ATACH's six commitment areas.

Dr **Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum**, Climate Change and Health Team Lead at WHO, shared some additional information on how ATACH will function. WHO will provide the secretariat for the Alliance. The UK and Egypt will co-convene the group of committed countries in the first two years.

The Initiative will set up four thematic working groups. Countries who have joined the Alliance can participate in these:

- Financing for commitments on climate resilient and sustainable low carbon health systems;
- Climate resilient health systems;

- Low-carbon sustainable health systems;
- Greening supply chains and procurement.

A steering group, made up of the leads of the various working groups, will provide coordination and strategic guidance to the Alliance. Many technical partners will also support the alliance, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Healthcare Without Harm (HCWH), and others.

NHS: Creating the world's first net-zero healthcare system

The UK's National Health Services (NHS) is considered a frontrunner in healthcare decarbonisation. In October 2020, the NHS became the first healthcare system in the world to commit to net zero emissions.

Dr **Nick Watts**, Chief Sustainability Officer of the NHS, shared how this early commitment to healthcare climate action in the UK has had major economic benefits for the health service. For example, NHS's switch to renewables reduced its 2021 energy bill by more than 1.1 billion pounds compared to business as usual cost estimates.

Dr Watts highlighted that staff engagement is key to success - and that regular surveys indicate 91% of NHS staff want the organisation to tackle climate change. An independent evaluation of patients' views showed similar results, with 81% of patients happy to see the NHS take action on climate.

The NHS's overarching strategy is to reach net zero emissions by 2040, and net zero emissions for its indirect emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3) by 2045. As of 2022, it has also translated that strategy to local net zero strategies for every single region and integrated care system in the UK.

Dr Watts shared an update on the various areas where the NHS is making progress, including on governance, infrastructure, standards and guidelines, energy efficiency, anaesthetic gases, transport, and leadership. For example, the NHS will have 42 fully electric ambulances by the end of the year, a world first.

Delivering against these goals also requires international collaboration, said Dr Watts, since healthcare relies heavily on international supply chains. The NHS has committed to end all procurement from providers without a net zero target by April 2027. This will have far-reaching implications for healthcare procurement practices in Australia and elsewhere.

More information on the NHS's efforts on climate action can be found [here](#).

Operation Zero: developing national healthcare decarbonisation plans

The healthcare sector's global climate footprint is equivalent to 4.4% of global net emissions; if it were a country, it would be the fifth largest emitter in the world. In Australia, the carbon footprint attributed to health care amounts to 7% of national emissions

There are opportunities both for the sector to lead by example, and for the sector to leverage its purchasing power to influence changes within the supply chain.

A new Health Care Without Harm initiative called 'Operation Zero' is seizing this opportunity, by developing a standardised methodology for developing a healthcare decarbonisation roadmap that can be applied by any national or regional health authority. This seeks to apply the strategies outlined in the [Global Healthcare Decarbonisation Roadmap](#) developed by Health Care Without Harm and ARUP in 2021 at the national and regional level.

Scott Brady, Climate Programme Manager at Health Care Without Harm Europe, presented the ongoing work of Operation Zero to the Roundtable participants. He shared how the methodology is currently being piloted in the Netherlands, Portugal and Italy, and will soon be available for other health authorities to use. The methodology includes advice on: governance structures, the identification of stakeholders, emissions baselines, emissions trajectories and modelling, as well as measuring, reporting and verification practices.

The methodology should be seen as a set of guiding principles and methods, Brady said, that allow for enough flexibility to adjust to local circumstances and needs.

More information about Operation Zero can be found [here](#).

Australian health leadership on climate action

Commonwealth

Roundtable participants were joined by the Hon. **Ged Kearney MP**, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care of the Commonwealth Government of Australia.

Assistant Minister Kearney emphasised that the newly elected Federal Government understands the challenges and opportunities which climate change presents, and that it is committed to climate action. She confirmed the Labor Government's commitment to make climate change a National Health Priority, and signalled that the new government is looking forward to working with state and territory governments to give effect to this commitment. The Federal Government is looking forward to working with all jurisdictions on this and other climate and health issues.

Assistant Minister Kearney re-confirmed Labour's long-standing commitment to developing Australia's first national strategy on climate change, health and well-being.

She said such a strategy would be critical in ensuring:

- strong collaboration across government to improve the sustainability and the resilience of the Australian health system, and
- that the health system can continue to support the health needs of Australians into the future.

New South Wales

States and territories play a crucial role in developing sustainable and climate resilient healthcare. **Justin Clancy MP**, Parliamentary Secretary for Health of New South Wales (NSW), emphasised the important role that states and territories play in the public health system, as well as the country's response to climate change. The cost of not acting is a significant driver for NSW's ambition, Secretary Clancy confirmed.

NSW is the first Australian government, and the first sub-national government in the world, to commit in principle to joining the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate Change and Health (ATAACH). They are currently awaiting formal approval from the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to join, before making their commitment public.

As part of its commitments under the ATACH program, NSW Health has committed to a sustainable low carbon health system, with a target of halving healthcare emissions by 2030, and reaching net-zero healthcare by 2050. This is in line with the state's overarching net zero target.

NSW Health has also committed to develop a health and climate vulnerability assessment, conduct a baseline assessment of health sector emissions, and develop a healthcare decarbonisation roadmap by 2025. NSW Health is currently establishing a Climate Risk and Net Zero Unit, which will help coordinate the Local Health Districts across the state to reduce their emissions. The baseline carbon footprint for NSW Health is expected to be undertaken in 2022, and will include supply chains.

Healthcare emission reductions are planned across all three scopes eg: direct onsite emissions; emissions from purchased electricity; and supply chain emissions. They will also be taking place across various action areas: hospital design; energy efficiency; water use; solar energy; anaesthetic gases; new methods of care such as telehealth; transport; waste management; and alignment with existing government initiatives and goals.

South Australia

The state of South Australia (SA) has been a leader when it comes to transitioning to renewables, with 60% of energy in the state currently generated by wind and solar.

However, when it comes to preparing the health sector for climate change, SA still has a lot of work to do, said Hon **Chris Picton MP**, Minister for Health and Wellbeing of South Australia.

Noting that climate change is a public health priority, Minister Picton also commented that the state needs to develop plans to prepare SA's health system, and to monitor the health system's performance in meeting the state's climate goals.

As the driest state in the driest continent, SA will be increasingly vulnerable to the public health impacts of climate change, Minister Picton added, and the health system will need to be prepared for that.

One key area of healthcare sustainability the state is already making progress on is infrastructure; ensuring the design of hospitals is sustainable and "bakes in" emission reduction targets. Other priority areas of work include "consumables", energy efficiency, transport, and a switch to different models of care such as virtual care.

Australian Capital Territory

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) has a territory-wide target to reach net zero emissions by 2045, as part of its Climate Change Strategy. The Territory has also committed for its health system to reach zero emissions by 2040, confirmed **Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA**, Minister for Health of the ACT.

Government health services make up around 16% of overall ACT government emissions, Minister Stephen-Smith highlighted, and a first step in bringing those emissions down has been to source 100% of the health system's electricity from renewables.

As a relatively small jurisdiction, the ACT has been able to make transformative changes at a rapid pace in some areas of sustainability. At other times, it can be challenging to find sufficient policy resources, and coordination with other jurisdictions is crucial, the minister noted.

The Canberra Hospital has a 20-year master plan, which covers sustainability measures on: infrastructure, promoting active travel and the uptake of electric vehicles, improved guidelines and building codes, and the electrification of health services. A major investment of \$624 million will also help create the first 100% electrified renewable-powered hospital building in Australia. A new Northside Hospital is currently being planned and will be 100% electric.

One area of work where more needs to happen are scope 3 emissions for healthcare, minister Stephen-Smith says. These indirect emissions from the supply chain make up 90% of the ACT's total carbon footprint, and are a relatively untapped opportunity for climate action in the ACT.

The ACT is currently considering joining the ATACH initiative, and emphasised that Australia would benefit from Commonwealth involvement and leadership with the initiative. Minister Stephen-Smith also welcomed the change in attitude around these issues from the new Commonwealth Government. The Minister emphasised the importance of having a united voice from Australia when it comes to responding to the health impacts of climate change.

Victoria

Victoria was one of the first jurisdictions to have a Climate Change Act and commit to reduce its emissions to net zero. The state now also aims to embed its climate targets into its healthcare system, said Dr **Angie Bone**, Deputy Chief Health Officer at the Victorian Department of Health.

Victoria has already cut its emissions by about 25%, achieving the state's 2020 target two years early. The Victorian healthcare sector has had an environmental sustainability strategy for many years, and currently generates around 13 megawatt of solar energy - installed across 158 health facilities - at peak times. All Victorian government operations will be powered by 100% renewable energy by 2025, and this includes all public hospitals, Dr Bone added. Similarly, the target to switch the state government vehicle fleet to net zero emission by 2032 also includes healthcare vehicles.

The state recently announced it will be building an all-electric Hospital in Melton in the western suburbs of Melbourne; a project that represents a \$900 million investment and is expected to be completed by 2029.

In February 2022, Victoria published its Health and Human Services Adaptation Action Plan; one of seven sectoral adaptation plans that contribute to achieving the adaptation and resilience component of the Victorian climate change act.

The Health and Human Services Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan outlines 14 actions, divided into three key themes; public and stakeholder engagement, infrastructure resilience, and sector capability. The plan also has a strong emphasis on Aboriginal self determination.

The Department of Health is currently embedding climate resilience and sustainability across all its portfolios, while also exploring whether it should be establishing a Victorian Sustainable Development Unit (SDU).

Queensland

The state of Queensland has recently developed a country-leading Climate Risk Strategy for the health sector, which requires each hospital and health service to implement Climate Risk Action Plans.

The strategy is being operationalised, and Queensland Health has established an advisory committee, is conducting risk assessment training for hospitals and health services, and is also monitoring progress, said **John Piispanen**, Executive Director of the Health Protection Branch at Queensland Health.

Queensland Health has recently established an Office of Hospital Sustainability, responsible for implementing Queensland's 10-year healthcare greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan. Among the Office's key focus areas are emissions reductions, healthcare infrastructure, and waste management. It currently has a budget of \$30 million, and will be funding initiatives to reduce the carbon footprint of healthcare facilities across Queensland.

Lastly, Mr Piispanen shared that the annual health report by Queensland's Chief Health Officer will be changing its format, to be able to account more for the growing health risks from climate change and other areas of interest.

Western Australia

The government of Western Australia (WA) is strongly committed to adapting to climate change, to building climate resilient communities, and to working with all sectors, including the health care sector, to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, said Dr **Sarah Joyce**, Lead Sustainable Development Officer at the Sustainable Development Unit of the WA Department of Health.

The WA government recently announced interim emission reduction targets of 80% below 2020 levels by 2030, which would also include all public health care facilities. The recommendations from the 2019 Climate Health WA Inquiry - which were endorsed by the WA government in 2020 - provide a useful guide to the health sector on how to achieve this, added Dr Joyce.

Largely in response to the Inquiry, the WA Department of Health has established a Sustainable Development Unit (SDU). This will help lead and coordinate a health system wide response around climate action, both in terms of mitigation and adaptation.

The SDU is currently undertaking a carbon footprint analysis of WA's health system, to better understand the sector's major sources of emissions. This analysis will allow the development of better metrics to monitor healthcare sustainability going forward, while also informing the SDU's investment decisions over the next few years. Various healthcare sustainability projects are already underway, such as the removal of the anaesthetic agent desflurane, the introduction of zero emission vehicles, and the scaling up of solar panels on regional hospitals.

In a second stage, the SDU will develop a system-wide climate strategic framework, to ensure WA is building a climate resilient and sustainable healthcare system, and improve planning and investment in health adaptation.

In 2023, WA will develop a health adaptation plan, as well as a communications strategy to strengthen public awareness around the links between climate change and health, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.

Tasmania

Tasmania has a lot of opportunities to drive the climate and health agenda forward, building on its commitment to have state-wide net zero emissions by 2030, says **Sophie Muller**, Chief Executive for Public Health Services at the Tasmanian Department of Health.

The state has a whole-of government action plan for climate change, with a range of targets including an entirely electric fleet by 2030. At the level of the health system, Tasmania is developing a sustainable infrastructure strategy, and has a range of sustainability initiatives in place for hospital and health services. There is now an opportunity to apply that approach more systematically to the entire hospital system, says Ms Muller.

Tasmania's five-year plan for preventative health has climate change as one of its priorities. The plan also recognises the opportunity for different sectors to work together to protect and prepare for the impacts of a changing climate.

The state is also looking at establishing a new healthcare sustainability committee, to allow for a more consistent approach to sustainability across the state.

Northern Territory

The Northern Territory (NT), like others, has an emissions reduction target of net zero by 2050. It now has an opportunity to translate this to a health system target, said Dr. **Charles Pain**, Chief Health Officer of the Northern Territory. There is significant investment in solar energy taking place in the NT, and the government has adopted a 50% renewable energy by 2030 target.

The NT is very interested to continue learning from colleagues in other states and territories in terms of healthcare sustainability, added Dr Pain.

The Climate and Health Alliance

The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) is Australia's peak body on climate change and health. It represents over 90 health groups, who work together as a coalition and community of practice.

CAHA led the development of "Healthy, Regenerative and Just" a policy framework for a **national strategy on climate, health and wellbeing** for Australia. It is a policy roadmap that was designed with inputs from over 100 thought leaders from more than 20 different disciplines, and was informed by extensive consultation with health stakeholders and experts. The framework has been endorsed by more than 70 health groups, the Australian Labor Party, the Greens, and various Independent MPs.

CAHA founded and coordinates the Pacific network of **Global Green and Healthy Hospitals**; a network of over 100 health systems and health network members across every state and territory, including many health departments. Currently, more than one third of all Australian hospitals and health services in Australia are represented in the network.

CAHA has recently also worked with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (ACSQHC) to support the development of a **sustainable healthcare module**, an initiative which will be undergoing public consultation in the second half of 2022.

Other initiatives CAHA is developing include a project to support the development of a national or subnational health sector decarbonisation roadmap, an initiative currently being scoped with the **Climate Ready Initiative** at Griffith University. CAHA and the Climate Ready Initiative would be pleased to talk with any jurisdictions and industry partners interested to be involved in the project.

Ways Forward

Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate Change and Health (ATACH)

The co-hosts (CAHA and WHO) of the Australian Health Leadership Roundtable on Climate Action encourage all Australian jurisdictions to consider **joining the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate Change and Health (ATACH)**. A climate and health policy map prepared by CAHA indicates the level of progress each jurisdiction has already made towards achieving the climate and health goals of the international initiative (see Appendix 1 below).

An annual Ministerial Health Leadership Roundtable on Climate Action

The co-hosts (CAHA and WHO) propose this initiative becomes an annual event to bring together federal, state, and territory Health Ministers and senior officials to learn from others in the ATACH program, as well as other international and national experts, and to share their progress and challenges in this area of work. This will provide opportunities to explore collaboration across the jurisdictions and to identify best practice policy and practice at the intersection of climate change and health.

A national Community of Practice on climate change and health

The co-hosts also proposed the establishment of a **national Community of Practice on climate change and health** across the jurisdictions. This could provide a regular forum to share progress on tackling climate adaptation and resilience and healthcare decarbonisation, and allow for the sharing of knowledge, experience, and progress.

Healthcare decarbonisation roadmap

CAHA encourages the Commonwealth and any of the state and territory jurisdictions interested to explore participation in the project being developed by CAHA and the Climate Ready Initiative at Griffith University to get in contact.

This initiative to develop a healthcare decarbonisation roadmap could be undertaken in one or several willing jurisdictions, drawing on the lessons from the Operation Zero project currently underway in Europe, and ensuring a coordinated, planned approach to moving the sector to net zero.

Health sectoral support for collaboration

Lastly, there is overwhelming support from the health community across Australia for the health sector to lead on climate action and sustainable healthcare, and a willingness to work with governments to implement an ambitious agenda on climate change and health.

Strong support exists across the health community for initiatives such as:

- a national strategy on climate health and well-being;
- the development of healthcare decarbonisation plans;
- the establishment of a national Sustainable Development Unit; and
- the establishment of an Australian Centre for Disease Control.

Many participants of the June 29 roundtable expressed a keen interest to continue the conversation, and were willing to build stronger links across jurisdictions in order to identify and implement climate priorities for the Australian health system.

The health community is also ready, and willing, to engage.

Appendix 1: Climate and health policy map

Overview of current policy commitments on climate and health across Australian jurisdictions, and how they compare to the 6 commitments of the [Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate Change](#) (ATACH, formerly known as the COP26 Health Programme).

Jurisdiction	Area	Commitment	Status*	Existing Policies and Initiatives**
Federal	Adaptation & Resilience	Health vulnerability and adaptation assessment	Partly	HEAL Network will conduct a health impact assessment - funded by a \$10 million grant from National Health and Medical Research Council.
		Health Adaptation Plan	No	National climate resilience and adaptation strategy 2021 - 2025 prioritises sustainable and responsive health systems, but little detail exists. No separate health adaptation plan.
		Climate change funding for health mitigation and adaptation	Partly	HEAL Network: academic network on climate and health across Australia - - funded by a \$10 million grant from National Health and Medical Research Council.
	Mitigation	Target date for health system to reach net zero emissions	Partly	Net zero target for 2050. Opportunity to translate to health system target.
		Baseline assessment of GHG emissions	No	No emission monitoring for the health sector.
		Roadmap by a set date to develop a sustainable low carbon health system	No	No national healthcare decarbonisation roadmap.
	Queensland Adaptation & Resilience	Health vulnerability and adaptation assessment	Yes	The Queensland Health Climate Risk Strategy 2021-2026 (QH CRS) requires each hospital and health service to implement Climate Risk Action Plans. As part of preparing Climate Risk Action Plans, health vulnerability assessments will be undertaken on a regional Hospital and Health Services basis. The QH CRS also seeks to build resilience and capacity within the broader Queensland community to manage physical and mental health impacts caused by climate risks.
		Health Adaptation Plan	Yes	Health adaptation plan released in 2018, Queensland Health developed climate risk adaptation guidancelines for health services in 2019.

				Release of the Queensland Health Climate Risk Strategy 2021-2026 in 2021.
		Climate change funding for health mitigation and adaptation	Partly	Queensland Health has established a 10-year \$30 million rolling Emission Reduction Fund for energy conservation measures in existing infrastructure.
	Mitigation	Target date for health system to reach net zero emissions	Yes	State-wide target of net zero by 2050. Queensland Health is moving in step with the state-wide targets, including the interim target of a minimum 30% emission reduction by 2030 below 2005 levels - outlined in the Queensland Health's Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Strategy 2020-2030. Targets are embedded in the QH Climate Risk Strategy
		Baseline assessment of GHG emissions	Yes	A baseline GHG assessment was conducted in 2018 and the second Whole of Government agency emissions analysis is currently being completed.
		Roadmap by a set date to develop a sustainable low carbon health system	Yes	The Office of Hospital Sustainability was established in 2021 to assist the Hospital and Health Services in building a low-carbon, resilient, and environmentally sustainable health sector. The key objective of QH Climate Risk Strategy is to establish a supportive policy framework to develop a sustainable low carbon public health system. Qld Health are a member of Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network.
New South Wales	Adaptation & Resilience	Health vulnerability and adaptation assessment	Yes	NSW Health commits to a state-wide climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessment by 2025. All NSW health districts are to conduct a climate risk assessment in 2022. A climate risk team is guiding the work and establishing metrics for measuring climate risks.
		Health Adaptation Plan	No	No health adaptation plan.
		Climate change funding for health mitigation and adaptation	No	NSW has a climate change fund , but no climate funding is allocated to health.
	Mitigation	Target date for health system to reach net zero emissions	Yes	NSW Health commits to a sustainable low carbon health system, commits to halve healthcare emissions by 2030, and reach net-zero healthcare by 2050. (In line with the state-wide target of net zero by 2050, halving emissions by 2030).
		Baseline assessment of	Yes	A baseline carbon footprint for NSW Health is

		GHG emissions		planned for 2022, including supply chains.
		Roadmap by a set date to develop a sustainable low carbon health system	Yes	NSW Health commits to develop a healthcare decarbonisation roadmap by 2025, and is currently establishing a Climate Risk and Net Zero Unit. NSW Future Health Strategy commits to an environmentally sustainable footprint for future healthcare.
Australian Capital Territory	Adaptation & Resilience	Health vulnerability and adaptation assessment	Yes	Plans to measure and report on resilience indicators.
		Health Adaptation Plan	Partly	Health focus in the 2016 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy . No stand-alone health adaptation plan.
		Climate change funding for health mitigation and adaptation	Partly	Has a Zero Emissions Government Fund - interest free loans to government agencies to cut emissions.
	Mitigation	Target date for health system to reach net zero emissions	Yes	ACT committed to establish and implement a pathway to a zero emissions ACT Government health sector by 2040.
		Baseline assessment of GHG emissions	Yes	Net zero target will be informed by an assessment of all current and planned public health facilities.
		Roadmap by a set date to develop a sustainable low carbon health system	Yes	Pathway for zero emissions public health sector developed by 2020 and reviewed every 5 years to assess progress. ACT Health Directorate is a member of the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network.
Victoria	Adaptation & Resilience	Health vulnerability and adaptation assessment	Partly	Unclear if a separate health vulnerability assessment has taken place in designing Victoria's Health Adaptation Plan. Reducing vulnerabilities is a strong focus of VIC's health adaptation plan.
		Health Adaptation Plan	Yes	Health and Human Services Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022-2026 . Tackling climate change and its impact on health is a priority in the Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2019-2023 .
		Climate change funding for health mitigation and adaptation	Partly	Unclear to what degree VIC's health adaptation plan is funded. Has committed \$1.2 billion to upgrade existing health infrastructure and build more hospitals.
	Mitigation	Target date for health system to reach net zero emissions	Partly	State-wide target of net zero by 2050 (interim targets of 28-32% by 2025 and 45-50% by 2030), opportunity to translate to health system target. Ambulance Victoria has net-zero by 2045 commitment.

		Baseline assessment of GHG emissions	Partly	Some emissions are reported for the Victorian Health service (reporting was improved from FY 2015/16 for Scope 1 and 2). Environmental sustainability requirements include monitoring of emissions . No assessment has taken place for supply chains.
		Roadmap by a set date to develop a sustainable low carbon health system	Partly	No roadmap, but various initiatives: VIC target for hospitals and other public services to be 100% RE by 2025. Electrified car fleet by 2032. Regional Health Solar program : \$13.5 million for the installation of solar panels in public health Services. \$40 million programme to improve energy efficiency in public hospitals. VIC Department of Health is a member of Global Green and Healthy Hospitals.
Tasmania	Adaptation & Resilience	Health vulnerability and adaptation assessment	No	Climate Change Health Impact and Risk Assessment Tool has been piloted 10 years ago. A statewide climate change risk assessment is scheduled (pending the progression of the Climate Change Amendment Bill 2021 through Parliament).
		Health Adaptation Plan	Partly	Health and wellbeing are recognised as an adaptation priority. Climate and health are a focus area of the Healthy Tasmania Preventative health plan (2022-2026). No stand-alone health adaptation plan.
		Climate change funding for health mitigation and adaptation	Partly	In 2020, the Climate Research Grants Program offered grants of up to \$50,000 towards climate change projects that support seven priority research areas, one of these being health and wellbeing.
	Mitigation	Target date for health system to reach net zero emissions	Partly	State-wide target of net zero emission by 2030. Sectoral Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans are scheduled to be developed (pending the progression of the Climate Change Amendment Bill 2021 through Parliament) and will include the health sector.
		Baseline assessment of greenhouse gas emissions	Partly	Energy audits have been conducted at various DoH sites. The Department of Health reports energy-related emissions through its Energy Performance Analyst.
		Roadmap by a set date to develop a sustainable low carbon health system	No	The Tasmanian Government is developing a sustainability vision and strategy for Tasmania. The Department of Health is reviewing the possibility to develop an environmental sustainability strategy. The Public Health Services of Tasmania are part of the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network.

South Australia	Adaptation & Resilience	Health vulnerability and adaptation assessment	Partly	The SA Climate Action Plan 2021 - 2025 commits the SA Health department to conduct a vulnerability assessment of its assets and programs (action 6.7).
		Health Adaptation Plan	Partly	SA Climate Action Plan 2021 - 2025 commits to enhance climate change adaptation in SA health services. The SA public health plan 2019 - 2024 highlights protecting public health from climate change as a priority. Several regional adaptation plans prioritise health, but no state-wide health adaptation plan. SA Health Infrastructure has recently formed a climate workgroup.
		Climate change funding for health mitigation and adaptation	No	No dedicated climate finance for health.
	Mitigation	Target date for health system to reach net zero emissions	Partly	State-wide target of net zero by 2050. Opportunity to translate to health system target.
		Baseline assessment of greenhouse gas emissions	No	No emission monitoring for the health sector.
		Roadmap by a set date to develop a sustainable low carbon health system	No	No healthcare decarbonisation roadmap. The Department of Health and Wellbeing has formed a Climate Change Focus Group, to determine future priorities for climate change and health policy in SA. SA Climate Action Plan 2021 - 2025 commits to develop a model for assessing health service and policy needs, to develop a sustainability policy.
Western Australia	Adaptation & Resilience	Health vulnerability and adaptation assessment	Yes	Health impact assessment conducted as part of 2008 WA Adaptation strategies and guidelines for an updated vulnerability assessment recommended in the Climate Health WA Inquiry final report.
		Health Adaptation Plan	Partly	Developing a health adaptation plan will be a focus of WA SDU.
		Climate change funding for health mitigation and adaptation	Partly	Health WA SDU will have small grants and seed funding for climate and health. WA state budget 2021 -2022 includes \$118 million fund to invest in future climate-related initiatives to respond to climate change, but does not include funds for health projects.
	Mitigation	Target date for health system to reach net zero	Partly	State-wide target of net zero by 2050. Opportunity to translate to health system target.

		emissions		
		Baseline assessment of greenhouse gas emissions	Partly	The process for developing a baseline assessment for Scope 1 and 2 emissions is underway.
		Roadmap by a set date to develop a sustainable low carbon health system	Yes	Establishment of WA Health Sustainable Development Unit (SDU). SDU working on a strategic Framework for the WA health system. Targets and milestones for healthcare sustainability are being set. WA Department of Health, along with 5 of the 7 WA health service providers, are members of Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network.
Northern Territory	Adaptation & Resilience	Health vulnerability and adaptation assessment	Yes	NT Climate change response action plan commits to identify and prioritise risks to human health associated with climate change. Some local NT government climate risk assessments also include health risks and measures (East Arnhem , Wagait).
		Health Adaptation Plan	Partly	NT climate change response plan commits to work with the community services sector to develop climate change risk adaptation and response frameworks. Unclear whether this includes health. NT has established a climate change advisory committee in Department of Health
		Climate change funding for health mitigation and adaptation	No	No dedicated climate finance for health.
	Mitigation	Target date for health system to reach net zero emissions	Partly	Territory-wide target of net zero by 2050. Opportunity to translate to health system target.
		Baseline assessment of greenhouse gas emissions	Partly	Have a target to “understand emissions profile and trajectory” but unclear if this includes the health sector
		Roadmap by a set date to develop a sustainable low carbon health system	No	No healthcare decarbonisation roadmap. Majority of NT health services are members of Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network.

**Status assessment of each commitment area conducted by CAHA and based on the criteria established by the COP26 Health Initiatives on Climate Resilient and Low Carbon, Sustainable Health Systems. The status assessment does not necessarily represent a comprehensive assessment of the quality and scope of initiatives in each policy area.*

***Selection of existing policies and initiatives on climate change and health for each jurisdiction, based on publicly available information, as well as informal consultations with senior health officials, which took place from February to June 2022.*

Appendix 2: Participants of the Health Leadership Roundtable on Climate Action

Participants of the June 29 Health Leadership Roundtable on Climate Action.

Name	Title	Institution
Ged Kearney MP	Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care	Commonwealth Government of Australia
Chris Picton MP	Minister for Health and Wellbeing	Government of South Australia
Hon Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA	Minister for Health	Government of the Australian Capital Territory
Shane Rattenbury MLA	Attorney-General	Government of the Australian Capital Territory
Justin Clancy MP	Parliamentary Secretary for Health	Government of New South Wales
Helen Yaxley	Senior Policy Advisor Climate Change and Health	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom
Dr Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum	Team Leader, Climate Change and Health	World Health Organization
Elena Villalobos-Prats	Technical Officer, Climate Change and Health	World Health Organization
Dr Nick Watts	Chief Sustainability Officer	National Health Service (NHS), United Kingdom
Scott Brady	Climate Programme Manager	Health Care Without Harm Europe
Professor Paul Kelly	Chief Medical Officer	Commonwealth Department of Health
Professor Michael Kidd	Deputy Chief Medical Officer	Commonwealth Department of Health
Lara Purdy	Assistant Secretary, Office of Health Protection	Commonwealth Department of Health
Other representatives		Commonwealth Department of Health
Professor Anne Duggan	Chief Medical Officer	Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
Kate Butler	Senior Project Officer, National Standards Program	Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
George John	Senior Policy Advisor · Office of Minister Hazzard	Government of New South Wales

Dr Kate Charlesworth	Senior Advisor, Environmental Sustainability	NSW Ministry of Health
Joe Portelli	Executive Director, System Purchasing Branch	NSW Ministry of Health
Dr Kimberly Humphrey	Public Health Medical Consultant	SA Health
Meg Bransgrove	Senior Advisor	ACT Government
Anna McGuire	Senior Policy Officer, Climate Change Policy	ACT Government
Liz Lopa	Executive Group Manager, Strategic Infrastructure Division	ACT Health Directorate
Rhian Jones		ACT Health
Lindsey File		ACT Health
Emily Wheatley		ACT Health
Gian Falzon		ACT Health
Dr Angie Bone	Deputy Chief Health Officer	Department of Health, Victoria
Heidi Matkovich	Director, Health Infrastructure Policy	Department of Health, Victoria
Other representatives		Department of Health, Victoria
Dr Sarah Joyce	Lead Sustainable Development Officer, Sustainable Development Unit, Public and Aboriginal Health Division	Department of Health, Western Australia
Neil Keen	Chief Pharmacist, Pharmaceutical Services Branch	Department of Health, Western Australia
Dr Sallie Forrest	Medical Advisor, Sustainable Development Unit, Public and Aboriginal Health Division	Department of Health, Western Australia
Dr Emma-Leigh Synnott	Clinical Lead, Sustainability, South Metropolitan Health Service	Department of Health, Western Australia
Kevin Phillips	Director, Office of Hospital Sustainability	Department of Health, Queensland
John Piispanen	Executive Director, Health Protection Branch	Queensland Health
Dr Ellin Lede	Director of Policy, Office of the Chief Minister	Government of Northern Territory
Dr Charles Pain	Chief Health Officer	NT Health
Jacqueline Murdoch	Deputy Chief Health Officer	NT Health

Dr Mark de Souza	Chair, Sustainable Healthcare Committee	NT Health
Sophie Muller	Chief Executive, Public Health Services	Department of Health, Tasmania
Kate Garvey	Manager, Strategic Partnerships	Department of Health, Tasmania
Harriet Close	Manager, Government Relations and Strategic Policy	Department of Health, Tasmania
Other representatives		Department of Health, Tasmania
Roland Sapsford	Chief Executive Officer	Climate and Health Alliance
Fiona Armstrong	Strategic Projects Director	Climate and Health Alliance
Arthur Wynn	Policy and Advocacy Manager	Climate and Health Alliance
Milly Burgess	Projects Manager	Climate and Health Alliance
Stefanie Carino	Sustainable Healthcare Program Manager	Climate and Health Alliance

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