



Public Health Association  
AUSTRALIA



Australasian College  
for Emergency Medicine



The Royal Australasian  
College of Physicians



The Royal Australian  
College of  
General Practitioners

Feb 11th 2026

To our health authorities, departments of health, regulators, and elected officials and representatives,

In light of the widely researched and significant health impacts of home gas appliance use, we call for a cessation of gas connections to all new residential buildings and developments, and the phase out of gas appliance use in homes. We also call for the mandatory implementation of clearly visible health warnings on all new gas appliances at point of sale.

Burning gas creates indoor air pollution proven to be damaging to health, and that lingers in the indoor air for hours after a gas appliance has been used. This is exaggerated in our more airtight modern homes.<sup>1</sup> Examples of these pollutants include nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide,<sup>2</sup> formaldehyde, and benzene - a significant carcinogen. Given most people spend the majority of their time inside their homes,<sup>3,4,5</sup> this is concerning.

Evidence has shown the risk of a child being diagnosed asthmatic is 30% greater with gas in the home, mainly due to the NO<sub>2</sub> exposure, and similar to indoor cigarette smoke exposure. There is increased risk of worsened asthma symptoms, and bronchitis, for all occupants.<sup>6,7,8,9</sup> Asthma cost Australia \$28 billion in 2015 including \$1.2 billion in direct healthcare costs,<sup>10</sup> and indoor gas use is estimated to be responsible for 12% of our national childhood asthma burden.<sup>11</sup>

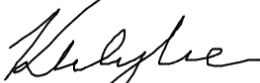
Exposure to nitrogen dioxide pollution has also been associated with an increased risk of dementia and cognitive decline. Indoor gas use, particularly gas heaters, also risks carbon monoxide poisoning <sup>12,13,14</sup> which often goes undiagnosed as symptoms can be confused with flu or food poisoning. Additional longer term symptoms include worsening memory, changes to mood and

behaviour.<sup>15,16</sup> Significant exposure can lead to deaths and near misses, and this continues to occur in modern Australia.

In addition to these physical harms, it is notable that energy expenditure in homes using gas is significantly more than in fully electric homes, and that home electrification insulates the community from the financial stresses of energy price inflation.<sup>17</sup>

As medical professionals, we believe effective prevention is the best and most effective method for reducing physical and mental harm to our community. When there are equivalent or better electric alternatives to gas appliances that do not carry the above mentioned health risks, we should be changing our practices to protect the public and moving to fully electric homes as a priority.

Yours sincerely,



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With endorsement from:

The Public Health Association Australia  
The Australian College of Emergency Medicine  
The Royal Australian College of Physicians and  
The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, NSW&ACT branch

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