



Action on climate will be good for health

Media release

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The Climate and Health Alliance has welcomed the Climate Commission report released today, *The Critical Decade: Climate change and health*, saying the links between human health and climate change are currently being overlooked in discussions about climate policy.

“This report is a welcome contribution to help build community understanding about the human impacts of climate change,” said Fiona Armstrong, CAHA Convenor.

“As the report points out, climate change is already having serious impacts on the health of Australians, particularly in the increase and severity of heatwaves, and harm from other extreme weather.

“If we want to limit the damage to human populations from climate change we must respond to this global emergency with the leadership and sense of cooperative good will for which Australians are renowned.

“Our current emissions reduction targets are manifestly inadequate, considering our national per capita emissions, and given the possible risks of social, environmental and economic disruption that unchecked global warming is predicted to deliver.

“There are many positive and significant health gains to be made from strategies to reduce emissions that will have immediate and direct benefits for people’s health. The Climate and Health Alliance urges the Australian community, business and policymakers to support strong emissions reduction targets for Australia so we can realise the benefits this will bring for health.”

“There will be many health gains from doing so, but profound losses if we fail,” Ms Armstrong said.

The Climate and Health Alliance is a coalition of healthcare stakeholders established in 2010 to raise awareness about the health effects of climate change and health benefits of climate action.

CAHA Members: Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW); Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM); Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS); Australian Hospitals and Healthcare Association (AHHA); Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA); Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI); Australian Research Alliance of Children and Youth (ARACY); Australian Women’s Health Network (AWHN); Australian Nursing Federation (ANF); Australian Psychological Society (APS); Australian Rural Health Education Network (ARHEN); CRANAp/us; Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA); Doctors Reform Society; Friends of CAHA; Health Consumers’ Network (Qld); Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA); Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA); Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP); North Yarra Community Health (NYCH); Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH); Women’s Health in the North; World Vision.

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