



Health must be at the heart of the global climate talks

Media release

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Australian health sector representatives will join the biggest ever [delegation of international health leaders](#) to attend the UN global climate talks in Durban this week where delegates will call for human health to be a core element of the global discussions.

The national coalition of health care stakeholders, the [Climate and Health Alliance \(CAHA\)](#), will partner in next week's [Global Climate and Health Summit](#) being held in parallel with the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) in an effort to raise the profile of public health in the global negotiations on climate change.

The Summit will bring key health sector leaders from around the world together to discuss the impacts of climate change on public health and solutions that promote greater health as well as equity between and within nations.

“Climate change represents a major threat, as well as a significant opportunity, for human health,” CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong said.

“Unmitigated climate change is having serious and increasing impacts on the health of millions of people around the world. However effective action on climate change can bring substantial and immediate health benefits for individuals and populations.

“We join with our international colleagues in calling on all parties to put health at the heart of the climate change negotiations, and for nations to act decisively to reduce emissions to protect and promote public health in all nations.”

This first ever Global Climate and Health Summit is organised by [Health Care Without Harm](#), the [Climate and Health Council](#) (UK), the [World Federation of Public Health Associations](#), and the [Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal](#).

The Summit outcomes will be presented at a [UN side event](#) on Thursday 8th December. The Summit program is available at <http://www.climateandhealthcare.org/action/summit/preliminary-agenda/>

The Climate and Health Alliance will post updates from Durban via its blog at www.caha.org.au and on [Twitter @healthy_climate](#). For more information contact CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong on 0438900005 or convenor@caha.org.au

