



CLIMATE<sup>AND</sup>  
HEALTH  
ALLIANCE

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2010-11

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## MESSAGE FROM CAHA PRESIDENT AND CONVENOR



The Climate and Health Alliance has accomplished a great deal in its first year. We've been to Canberra and to Durban, got some of the country's most significant healthcare stakeholders on board, produced some important papers and shared lots of resources on climate and health, distributed our newsletter to hundreds of subscribers, influenced the advocacy of other groups with the 'health' message, inspired others to take action, and established important partnerships with other stakeholders.

We will continue to work hard to raise awareness about the health risks from climate change and the health benefits of climate action. In 2012 we hope to reach out further into the community as well as make some progress on supporting the health sector to take action to cut emissions and help reduce its environmental footprint.

By attracting a significant cohort of health sector leaders and stakeholders in a national coalition to advocate on this most urgent of issues, CAHA sends an important message to policymakers and the community that climate change matters to health and that the Australian health sector is willing to lend its voice to the clamour for climate action.

Fiona Armstrong



## **HISTORY OF CAHA**

The Climate and Health Alliance was established in August 2010, following the development of a proposal by Fiona Armstrong to establish a "Green Health Alliance".

Four organisations agreed to host a meeting to discuss the proposal, the Public Health Association of Australia, the Australian Psychological Society, the Australian Women's Health Network, and Doctors for the Environment, Australia. Over 50 people from around 40 organisations attended the meeting. The meeting heard from Professor David Karoly on the science of climate change, from Professor Tony Capon on the health effects of climate change, and from Professor John Wiseman on the need for transformative action by societies to respond. Professor Michael Kidd, then President of Doctors for the Environment Australia, chaired the meeting in which a unanimous decision was made to establish what was decided to be called the "Climate and Health Alliance". This was not backing away from a broader concerns regarding ecological degradation but recognising that climate change was one of the most urgent symptoms of that. The meeting adopted the proposed draft Constitution, established an executive committee, and appointed an expert advisory group. A media release was distributed to announce the Alliance's establishment.

In March 2011, CAHA became an incorporated association and adopted a new set of Rules as required by law. A new Committee of Management was appointed.

## **PATRON**



Professor David De Kretser, former Governor of Victoria, is the Patron of the Climate and Health Alliance.

## GOVERNANCE

The CAHA Committee of Management (CoM) includes:



Fiona Armstrong, CAHA Convenor and President



Associate Professor Erica Bell, CAHA Vice-President (Australian Rural Health Education Network)



Dr Lance Emerson (Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth)



Dr Bret Hart (Alliance for Future Health)



Dr Liz Hanna (Royal College of Nursing Australia)



Michael Moore (Public Health Association of Australia)



Kristine Olaris (North Yarra Community Health)



Elizabeth Reale (Australian Nursing Federation)

Other members of the Committee of Management during 2011 included:

Associate Professor Grant Blashki, Doctors for the Environment Australia (March - October 2011)

Dr Marion Carey, Royal Australian College of Physicians (March - May 2011)

Jenny Longland, CRANA*plus* (March – August 2011)

Members of the initial CAHA Executive Committee appointed in August 2010 included:

Mark Sullivan, Australian Hospitals and Healthcare Association

Michael Moore, Public Health Association of Australia

Eugenie Kayak, Doctors for the Environment Australia

Elizabeth Reale, Australian Nursing Federation

Erica Bell, Australian Rural Health Education Network

Carole Taylor, CRANaplus

Patrick Tobin

Monica Persson, Audiology Australia

Bret Hart, Alliance for Future Health

Susie Burke, Australian Psychological Society

## **EXPERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The CAHA Expert Advisory Committee appointed in 2010 comprises:

- Dr Erica Bell, University Department of Rural Health, University of Tasmania
- Professor David Karoly, Federation Fellow in the School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne
- Professor Stephan Lewandowsky, School of Psychology, University of Western Australia
- Dr Peter Tait, PHAA Environment Special Interest Group, GP, Alice Springs
- Associate Professor Jane Carthey, Director, Centre for Health Assets Australasia, University of NSW
- Associate Professor Grant Blashki, Nossal Institute for Global Health
- Professor Anthony Capon, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University

Subsequent appointments to the CAHA Expert Advisory Committee in 2011 include:

- Dr Marion Carey (Monash Sustainability Institute)
- Dr Susie Burke (Australian Psychological Society)
- Professor Simon Chapman (University of Sydney)

All members of the expert advisory committee offer unique and informed perspectives on climate and health issues and CAHA is grateful for their willingness to contribute.

## CAHA STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The **aim** of the Climate and Health Alliance is to protect and promote health by acting, encouraging and empowering organisations and individuals in the health care sector and the wider community to contribute to developing effective political, sectoral and community responses to climate change.

The **objectives** of the Climate and Health Alliance are to work to develop effective sectoral and national policy and other national-level responses for preventing, mitigating, and adapting to, the health effects of climate change.

To achieve this, CAHA:

1. Advocates for urgent policy action to minimise further global warming and protect the community from the adverse consequences of climate change and environmental damage
2. Collaborates with others to identify and remove structural barriers to effective responses to climate change and develop sustainable practices in health care
3. Engages and informs health professionals, policy makers, and the community about: the risks posed to human health from climate change; and the solutions available to reduce risks and improve health
4. Shares information and resources about health and climate issues through a network of individuals and organisations

The progress report below on the **Strategic Action Plan** outlines the actions taken to achieve CAHA's aim and objectives.

## CAHA PRIORITIES

CAHA is developing background research and policy papers on each of the Alliance's identified priority areas: Health; Research and Development; Energy; Transport; Built Environment; Food and Agriculture; Education; Water; Sustainable Population; Citizen Engagement; Global Justice; Biodiversity; and Adaptation.

Each of these issues is seen as a priority policy area for CAHA in which it seeks to inform, collaborate, share, and advocate. The development of policy position papers will provide an opportunity to outline the research evidence on each of these priority issues as well as develop recommendations for policy. These papers will help make explicit the

rationale for the Alliance's advocacy on policy in each area, building the evidence for action, and assist in developing wider understanding of the need for integrated policy approaches that take account of the implications for human health.

Six of these policy papers are currently underway: Health; Education; Research; Citizen Engagement; Water; and Global Justice.

## PUBLICATIONS

CAHA has developed four Briefing Papers on issues the Alliance has been advocating for policy action.

**Briefing Paper No 1: Climate change is a health issue** outlines the evidence regarding the health risks from climate change and the health benefits of emissions reductions.

**Briefing Paper No 2: A price on carbon is good for health** outlines the evidence regarding the adverse health effects of fossil fuels, why pricing carbon is necessary for health and calls for a comprehensive suite of policies to reduce emissions.

**Briefing Paper No. 3: The carbon price framework** outlines the CAHA position in relation to the framework proposed for the carbon price legislation in early 2011 prior to its passing into law as the Clean Energy Future legislation in November 2011.

**Briefing Paper No. 4: Water for the Murray-Darling – Healthy Rivers, Healthy People** outlines its concerns regarding risks to human health from a failure to restore adequate volumes of water for environmental flows to the Murray Darling Basin.

## SUBMISSIONS

CAHA has developed the following submissions to government and parliamentary inquiries:

- ***Biodiversity: Our Health Depends On It*** – a submission to Australian Parliament House Environment Committee examining climate impacts on Australia's biodiversity.
- Submission to the **Senate Inquiry on the Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms**.

- Submission to Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities **in response to: *A sustainable population strategy for Australia: Issues Paper.***

All submissions are available on the CAHA website: [www.caha.org.au](http://www.caha.org.au)

## **COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

**Climate Action Network Australia:** CAHA is a member of the Climate Action Network Australia (CANA). CANA is a network of regional, state and national environmental, community development, and research groups and is the Australian arm of Climate Action Network International. Membership of CANA allows the Climate and Health Alliance to share its expertise on climate and health issues, and help inform and influence the advocacy agenda of other climate related groups to give a stronger focus on the implications for human health from climate change and the health benefits of climate action.

**Lifeblood Alliance:** CAHA is part of the Lifeblood Alliance - Voices for the Murray Darling, a national alliance of concerned groups and community members seeking the restoration of environmental flows to the Murray Darling Basin to restore healthy river ecosystems. CAHA's contribution is to help raise awareness about the links between human health and health ecosystems and to highlight the risks to the health of the community from a failed river system. The Briefing Paper '*Water for the Murray-Darling – Healthy Rivers, Healthy People*' was developed by CAHA with the support of water and social scientific experts for this purpose.

**Health benefits of emissions reduction report:** CAHA is undertaking a collaborative project with the research and policy organisation, the Climate Institute [www.climateinstitute.org.au](http://www.climateinstitute.org.au) to develop a report on the health benefits of emissions reductions. This paper will pull together the available evidence on the topic, including that published in *The Lancet* and by two European organisations, Health Care Without Harm (Europe) and the Health and Environment Alliance, in their *Acting Now for Better Health* report which evaluated the health benefits for Europe from the implementation of strategies to reduce emissions.

It is hoped that this report will help build public support for effective climate policy as it demonstrates tangible, important, immediate, health benefits from emissions reductions. The report will be released in early 2012.

**Say Yes!** CAHA participated in this joint campaign of civil society organisations calling on Australians to “Say Yes!” to a price on carbon to promote investment in clean renewable energy and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

**Global Climate and Health Summit:** CAHA is a partner in the first ever Global Climate and Health Summit to be held in Durban, South Africa, on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2011. This event will be held in parallel with the next round of international climate talks under the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and is the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 17). The Summit is being 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 aims to raise the profile of public health in the global negotiations on climate change. The Summit outcomes will be presented at a UN event on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

CAHA will participate in the development of a Durban Declaration to be released following the Summit and help to establish a Global Climate and Health Coalition.



## PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2010-11

This progress report seeks to evaluate and reflect the progress of CAHA toward the achievement of its Strategic Objectives as outlined in the Strategic Action Plan for 2010-2011.

**Objective 1: *Advocate for urgent policy action to prevent further global warming and protect the community from the adverse consequences of climate change and environmental damage***



**Strategies and actions CAHA has undertaken to realise this objective:**

- CAHA issues media releases regularly on a range of policy issues.
- CAHA delegates have been to Parliament House in Canberra on two occasions to meet with MPs and Senators and their staff to advocate on policy issues.
- In addition, CAHA representatives have met with federal bureaucrats, state parliamentarians and state bureaucrats in both health and environmental departments.

- CAHA has had opinion pieces published in major newspapers and online media advocating for action on health and climate policy issues.
- CAHA has developed a series of Briefing Papers to outline its position on a range of policy issues. These include: '*Climate change is a health issue*'; '*A price on carbon is good for health*'; '*The carbon price framework*'; and '*Water for the Murray-Darling – Healthy Rivers, Healthy People*'.
- In order to meet its objectives, CAHA is working to build its capacity for advocacy, collaboration, and information sharing through the establishment of a fundraising committee; coaching from fundraising consultants; and developing a fundraising strategy.
- To build capacity within the alliance and within the sector on climate policy and its links to health, CAHA is developing policy papers on each of its identified priority areas. Six of these policy papers are underway: Health; Education; Research; Citizen Engagement; Water; and Global Justice.

**Objective 2: *Collaborate with others to identify and remove structural barriers to effective responses to climate change and develop sustainable practices in health care***

**Strategies and actions CAHA has undertaken to realise this objective:**

- CAHA is working through a range of collaborative partnerships described above to help develop effective community responses to climate change.
- CAHA is seeking funding for several projects to support this objective, including the development of Policy Papers; the development of a Report Card on progress towards key indicators in each Policy Priority area; a report on the health effects of fossil fuels; and for the development of a scoping paper to ascertain the need and 'appetite' for a voluntary accreditation framework for health sector organisations seeking to demonstrate exemplary environmental performance.
- CAHA works to engage with the sector on issues related to climate and health and sustainable health care through Updates to Members, through a regular newsletter to subscribers in the health sector and

broader community, by providing presentation to health professionals and groups, and by making resource available via the website.

- The CAHA newsletter outlines options for health care to respond effectively to climate change by sharing examples of 'green healthcare' via the newsletter. There is room for improvement however on collaborating to support sustainable practices in healthcare and CAHA will work to address this in 2011-12.
- To facilitate communication and collaboration within the Alliance, reports on CAHA activities are provided for members' publications.

**Objective 3: Inform health professionals, policy makers, and the community about: the risks posed to human health from climate change; and the solutions available to reduce risks and improve health**



**Strategies and actions CAHA has undertaken to realise this objective:**

- CAHA regularly publishes articles in its newsletter (see above) about the risks to health from climate change and the health benefits of climate

action. This newsletter is now distributed to several hundred people nationally via email and is also available via the CAHA website.

- A resource library including relevant research reports is being developed on the website to inform policymakers, the health sector, and the community.
- CAHA has given presentations on the health effects of climate change and the health benefits of climate action to health sector organisations, universities, community organisations and groups, and at conferences and public events, including: Royal Australasian College of Physicians conference (May 2011); Deckchair Democracy (May 2011); Deakin University undergraduate seminars on policy and advocacy (May 2011); ARENA forum on climate change (June 2011); University of 3<sup>rd</sup> Age - Deepdene (September 2011); Melbourne University *Creating Healthy Sustainable Societies* conference (October 2011); Surrey Hills Medical Centre (October 2011); Alfred Hospital Grand Round (November 2011); 3 Pillars conference on *Behaviour Change for Sustainability* (November 2011).
- CAHA has written on two occasions to the federal health minister urging the government and the federal health portfolio to recognise climate change as a health issue and to respond accordingly. No satisfactory response has been received to date.
- CAHA engages regularly with a range of media to share its messages more broadly through media releases, occasional blogs, and through Facebook and Twitter.

**Objective 4: *Share information and resources about health and climate issues through a network of individuals and organisations***

**Strategies and actions CAHA has undertaken to realise this objective:**

- As noted above, CAHA distributes information through its network via email, newsletter and via the website to share resources about climate and health issues.
- The CAHA Facebook page and Twitter account are used regularly to promote media releases, share information relating to climate and

health, and to provides links to research, opinion pieces, news, and blogs.

- A 2011 Survey of Members found just over half (53%) share CAHA materials with their senior management, while 37% share with the whole organisation.

## **CAHA'S MEMBERS**

There are twenty two organisations representing health care professionals from a range of disciplines, health care service providers, institutions, academics, researchers and consumers that are members of the Climate and Health Alliance in 2010-11. These include:

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)  
CRANApplus  
Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA)  
Doctors Reform Society (DRS)  
Friends of CAHA  
Health Consumers' Network (Qld)  
Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA)  
Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP)  
Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA)  
North Yarra Community Health (NYCH)  
Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH)  
Women's Health in the North (WHIN)  
World Vision

## MEMBER SURVEY

A survey of CAHA Members was conducted in 2011 to evaluate member attitudes towards CAHA. The survey reveals:

- The majority of CAHA members join the Alliance because of their concern regarding the health implications of climate change (71%)
- Most consider both the establishment of CAHA and its interventions in the policy debate through media its biggest achievements (68%), followed by its development of briefing papers and submissions (45%)
- The most important aspect of membership for most members is being part of a bigger coalition that can advocate on their behalf (71%), followed by the opportunity it provides to raise awareness within their organisation and with others (42%)
- The most valued 'function' of CAHA was its media releases (60%)
- 82% of members include articles and updates about CAHA in their organisation's publications.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

This financial report reflects the small budget with which CAHA operates. Some 'seed' funding was provided at CAHA's establishment by member organisations, and this has helped cover some operating costs, including insurance. However much of CAHA's operations are funded through pro bono contributions and in-kind support. A fundraising strategy is being developed to conceive pathways to a sustainable funding stream that will ensure CAHA's continuation and enhance its effectiveness.

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### Income & Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 30.6.11

#### Income

Membership Income		\$ 9,290.00
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#### Expenditure

Advertising	\$ 2,290.00	
Insurance	\$2,495.76	
Legal	\$550.00	
Telephone	\$253.30	
Travel & Accommodation	\$494.59	\$6,083.65
<b>Net Surplus</b>		<b>\$ 3,206.35</b>