



# CLIMATE AND HEALTH ALLIANCE

Newsletter No. 1 - October 2010

## CAHA writes to Roxon

The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) has written to the Health Minister Nicola Roxon urging her to acknowledge climate change as a priority health issue. CAHA has offered to work with the parliament to develop policy that reduces the health risks from climate change and optimises the health benefits associated with effective climate policy action.

Contact [CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong](#) if you would like a copy of the letter.

## Membership growth

Welcome to new members! We now have many major national health care stakeholders as financial members of the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) and lots of others have indicated their intention to join. The Climate and Health Alliance now represents a broad cross section of the health sector, with many health disciplines as well as health consumers represented.

The diversity of CAHA's membership contributes substantially to its integrity as an advocate for the sector and offers significant opportunities for collaboration across the professions and the sector itself.

But you need to be part of it to realise the benefits! If you or your organisation intends to join CAHA, please send in a membership form as soon as possible to ensure you continue to receive our communications. Membership forms are available from CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong [fiona-armstrong@bigpond.com](mailto:fiona-armstrong@bigpond.com).

(Please note CAHA member, the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), is acting as CAHA's fund-holder).

## NEWS

### Stronger targets = better health

A [new report](#) from the [Health and Environment Alliance \(HEAL\)](#) and [Health Care Without Harm Europe \(HCWHE\)](#) demonstrates the very substantial health and economic benefits of strong targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The report is available [here](#).

### New resource on climate

A new publication produced by the [Australian Academy of Science](#) provides a very accessible overview of the latest climate science. *The Science of Climate Change: Questions and Answers* is available [here](#).

### Politicians and climate

CAHA recently drew attention to the significantly different levels of knowledge and understanding about climate change between members of the main political parties. Further information about this research from the University of Queensland is available [here](#).

## CAHA goes to Canberra

The Climate and Health Alliance will join the Australian Conservation Foundation in an advocacy day meeting with MPs and Senators in the federal parliament in November. The Advocacy Day will include representatives from the Southern Cross Climate Coalition, The Climate Project, the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, Union Climate Connectors, the Australian Solar Energy Society and the Climate and Health Alliance.

The Climate and Health Alliance delegates will provide advice on the health risks from climate change and environmental degradation, and will seek recognition of climate change as a priority public health issue.

The delegation will also emphasise the need for a price on pollution and urge the government to legislate a strong package of climate measures within this term of parliament.

If you are a CAHA member and would like to join this delegation, please contact [CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong](#) for more information.

## Purchasing low carbon health care

A [new study](#) published in the *Quarterly Journal of Medicine* demonstrates the procurement of goods and services in renal care accounts for as much as 72% of the emissions for kidney care.

Pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and waste accounted for the bulk of emissions in the analysis of an individual renal unit's carbon footprint.

## Cutting costs and waste with reuse

A [new study](#) led by anaesthetist and CAHA member Forbes McGain from the Western Hospital in Melbourne has demonstrated single use anaesthetic trays cost twice as much as reusable trays, produce 5% more CO<sub>2</sub> and use three times as much water.

## Health groups urge

### Obama to legislate

A coalition of health groups in the US has written to President Obama urging him to pass clean energy and climate legislation to protect public health – read the letter [here](#).

## EVENTS

The Globalism Research Centre at RMIT in Melbourne will hold a free seminar: **The new politics of climate change: building political momentum and community support for adequate action on climate change** on 13 October. Presenters include Professor Robyn Eckersley and Dr Martin Mulligan. Further details available [here](#).

### 'Opening the Gates on Farmer Health'

National Centre for Farmer Health Inaugural Conference  
11th – 13th October 2010 in Hamilton, Victoria. For more information, click [here](#).

### Update on CAHA Governance:

The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) has applied to the ATO for Deductible Gift Recipient and Income Tax Exempt (charitable) status. This will enable CAHA to apply for grants.

CAHA's current legal status is an unincorporated association. It is advised however that CAHA become an incorporated association in order to limit liability. This matter will be put to the membership for consideration once initial memberships are finalised.