



CLIMATE AND
HEALTH
ALLIANCE



IHEA
INSTITUTE OF HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING, AUSTRALIA
SUPPORTING HEALTH FACILITIES MANAGEMENT



Western Health

Report: Healthy Hospitals - Healthy Planet Forum 2018

The Healthy Hospitals: Healthy Planet Forum was held on 21 and 22 May 2018 at the Western Centre for Health and Research Education within Western Health in Melbourne. This forum aimed to look at what big picture changes are needed within our healthcare system to address climate change and environmental sustainability, as well as what can be done in individual hospitals and health services to reduce healthcare's environmental impacts.

The Forum was hosted by Western Health (WH), the Climate and Health Alliance, and the Institute of Healthcare Engineering Australia (IHEA). WH and IHEA are members of the **Global Green and Healthy Hospitals** network, coordinated in Australia and New Zealand by Western Health.

Valuable sponsorship was provided by ShineOn, as well as exhibiting sponsors Invisible Systems, Baxter, Ecosave and Medline. The forum's keynote speaker, Dr David Pencheon, was hosted in Australia by the University of Sydney.

Over 60 people attended the forum and included people from a wide range of organisational levels, from operational staff to senior management and executive directors. Attendees came from diverse health and environmental sustainability backgrounds including nurses, doctors, sustainability officers and managers, research assistants, pharmacists, academics, construction managers, project managers, state government representatives, students, supplier representatives, industry consultants, health promotion staff, business development staff, and more.

A copy of the flyer about the Forum can be found [here](#).

DAY ONE

Day One focused on environmental sustainability in building design solutions with innovations, case studies and relevant industry updates.



*Western Health
Green Ward Presentation*

Attendees were greeted by **Michael McCambridge**, Victoria / Tasmania IHEA Branch President.

Natasha Toohey, WH Executive Director of Operations, presented the annual Green Ward Competition prize at Western Health (WH). This initiative has seen orthopaedic technicians at WH partner with Donations In Kind (part of the Rotary International Charity operations) to send reusable splint and soft goods to developing countries. Eligible donations include structurally sound 'camboots', cast shoes, hinge knee, elbow brace and zimmer knee splints.

Johanna Trickett from Aurecon presented the Passivhaus projects currently underway at her firm. **Judene Andrews**, Sustainability Manager from UnitingCare Queensland (UCQld) talked about a number of successful energy efficiency projects implemented at UCQld.

Sarah Bending, Environmental Programs Advisor for Victorian Health and Human Services Building Authority (VHHSBA), gave a presentation on the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. **Jack McGuire**, from LCI Consultants, gave an update on recent changes to Section J of the National Construction Code and **Andrew Rothberg**, Senior Policy Officer at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) also gave an important update on the Victorian Energy Efficiency Target (VEET) Scheme.

Attendees benefited from hearing testimonies from different industry experts. **Dr Forbes McGain**, Anaesthetist at WH, presented his research findings on energy usage in the Intensive Care Unit; **Joseph Cheund** from Efficiency Matrix gave the audience important advice on building air tightness testing and **Jessica Bennett** from Aurecon touched on the basics of designing a building that complies with the WELL Building Standards. Finally, **Pablo Sepulveda** from AECOM shared some strategies on developing an Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) plan and **Philip Mitchell** from Environmental Technology Services talked about SHARC Energy systems where they extract thermal energy from wastewater to provide heating and cooling.

DAY TWO

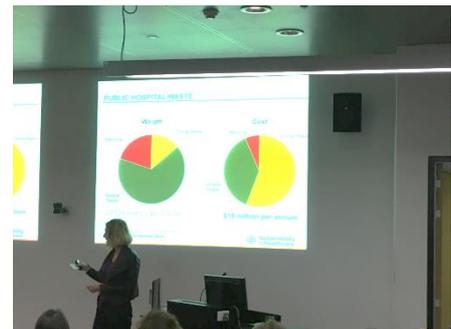
Day Two offered attendees opportunities for collaboration, networking and information exchanges with likeminded colleagues. Presentations included: latest research on the carbon footprint of healthcare in Australia; theory on more sustainable models of healthcare; and case studies highlighting successes and challenges in implementing environmental projects in a range of areas from energy efficiency to waste reduction to sustainable procurement.

The day kicked off with a keynote presentation from **Dr David Pencheon**, Founder Director of the Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) for NHS England and Public Health England. David shared his experiences in establishing the unit and the task of ensuring the NHS operated in an environmentally sustainable way. From 2007 to 2015, under his leadership, the NHS reduced its carbon emissions by 11% which resulted in a £1.85 billion saving, despite health and care activity increasing by 18% during the same period. The presentation was followed by a Q and A session, covering subjects such as: the current challenges and

opportunities facing the healthcare systems in regards to climate change; adaptability to new forms of technology; achieving financial stability while implementing sustainable practices; and an overall exchange of ideas and experiences between the UK and Australia.

Dr Forbes McGain, WH anaesthetist, followed by presenting his own findings from the latest research on carbon emissions from Australian Healthcare and **Judith Singleton** from Queensland University of Technology shared her research findings on what motivates people to engage with green behaviours in workplaces.

As with Day One, attendees had the opportunity to listen to successful case study presentations by **members of Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) network**. **Catherine O'Shea**, WH's Sustainability Officer, shared local sustainability action plans being implemented at her institution and how these have empowered other WH employees to work towards healthcare sustainability. **Debbie Wilson** from Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) in New Zealand shared her story of getting involved in sustainability and lessons from the Boston Green Ribbon Commission. **Aileen Thoms** presented Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service's experience on the critical role that staff engagement has on working greener and why to do it. Finally, **Rachel McConville** from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services talked about the Department's latest initiative toward sustainable healthcare practices, the Waste Reduction in Victorian Public Health initiative.



*Rachel McConville
Victorian DHHS*

THE PITCH

An exciting addition to this year's forum provided attendees with the opportunity to do a five-minute pitch to present their own projects in order to compete for a chance to win a \$1000 seed funding sponsored by Daniel's Health. Participants talked about the problems their projects addressed, how they proposed to tackle them, the environmental impact reductions their projects aimed to achieve, what challenges they anticipated and how they planned to overcome them.

Some of the proposals included a compost initiative to reduce waste at Western Health, a project aimed to give Papua New Guinea residents from a remote village reliable and continuous access to green energy powered by solar panels, and a sustainability education campaign targeted to Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service employees, among others.

After listening to several presentations, the winner was determined by popular vote. Natino Malvaso, Director at Daniels Health, awarded PhD candidate, Scott McAllister with \$1000 to go towards his research on lifecycle analysis of healthcare services (pathology tests).

GGHH GOALS FOCUSSED GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The last part of the day offered attendees a chance to break up in to small groups to network and discuss hot topics from different GGHH goal areas, including energy, waste, water, infrastructure, behaviour change, and project and people management. Discussions were moderated by area experts **Catherine O'Shea** (WH), **Dr Forbes McGain** (WH), **Fiona Armstrong** (CAHA), and **Judene Andrews** (UCQld).

Forum Partners



Partnering Sponsor



Exhibiting Sponsors

