

Healthy, Regenerative and Just



Framework for a national strategy on climate, health and well-being for Australia

Climate change is already affecting the physical and mental health of people in Australia and around the world.

Through more extreme weather, such as bushfires, droughts, heatwaves, and floods, along with the spread of infectious diseases, air pollution and aeroallergens, and declining crop yields, climate change is undermining our physical and mental health. Climate change amplifies existing health, social, and cultural inequities. Our health services are under immense pressure to respond. Without bold action, these impacts will only worsen.

Targeted action on climate change that integrates health, social, environmental and cultural considerations can lead to win-win-win outcomes. We can tackle inequality, reduce emissions and improve health through no-regrets policies and initiatives.

Led by the Climate and Health Alliance, health stakeholders and interdisciplinary experts have produced *Healthy, Regenerative and Just* – a framework for a national strategy on climate, health and well-being for Australia.

The framework presents an inclusive vision for coordinated action to support Australia to deliver on its obligations under the Paris Agreement and to do so in a way that promotes health and wellbeing, a regenerative economy, and social, environmental and cultural justice. It offers a comprehensive suite of recommendations across eight areas of policy action. It describes actions for governments (federal, state/territory and local), health agencies and institutions, social services, business, universities, professional associations, unions, accreditation agencies, superannuation firms, and financial institutions. It is proposed for implementation by the Federal Government, in cooperation with states and territories, as a matter of national priority.



Key Recommendations

<p>Health-Promoting and Emissions -Reducing Policies</p>	<p>Legislate a 75% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels by 2030 and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035</p> <p>Rapidly phase out fossil fuel-based energy and transport and invest in renewable energy resources and infrastructure</p>
<p>Supporting Healthy and Resilient Communities</p>	<p>Recognise social, cultural and environmental determinants of health in all policy decisions, including climate and energy policy.</p> <p>Recognise and respect the knowledge, capacity and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to lead decisions that affect their country and communities.</p> <p>Empower communities and community service organisations to respond and build resilience to climate threats.</p>
<p>Thriving Ecosystems</p>	<p>Expand programs to preserve natural environments, including wilderness areas and national parks, vital for human health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to implement traditional approaches to care for country.</p>
<p>Emergency and Disaster-Preparedness</p>	<p>Improve the preparedness of health and emergency services to respond to the impacts of climate change such as increased extreme weather events.</p> <p>Integrate climate risk assessments into all disaster-preparedness and health sector planning.</p>
<p>Education, Communication and Capacity Building</p>	<p>Educate and train health professionals to respond to the health impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Boost public understanding of the health impacts of climate change.</p>
<p>A Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Health Care Sector</p>	<p>Establish a roadmap by 2023 to decarbonise healthcare by 2035.</p> <p>Support the health sector to mitigate its own greenhouse gas emissions.</p>
<p>Research and Data</p>	<p>Fund climate and health research to identify effective solutions for climate-health threats in our region.</p> <p>Invest in systems to monitor and evaluate climate and health impacts in real time.</p>
<p>Leadership, Financing and Governance</p>	<p>Recognising that human health and the health of our planet are inextricably linked, and that our civilisation depends on human health, flourishing natural systems, and the wise stewardship of natural resources.</p>