



CLIMATE AND
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

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Health and medical experts call for national strategy on climate change: new report

A new report from a national consultation with health and medical groups stakeholders has revealed deep concerns about federal government inaction on climate change. There is overwhelming support for national action to promote health and welfare of all Australians in the face of increased climate risks.

Extensive consultations over several months, including a national survey commencing in July 2016, an online discussion forum in August 2016 and a health leaders roundtable in October 2016, enabled Australia's health sector to respond and input into the proposal for a national strategy, put forward in a discussion paper released in June 2016.

Senior health leaders, researchers, academics, policy professionals as well as doctors, nurses, midwives, public health practitioners and psychologists from peak bodies and unions were virtually unanimous (98%) in their support.

CAHA Executive Director and report co-author Fiona Armstrong said the findings revealed that health professionals and leaders of health groups are acutely aware of the link between climate change and health, and recognise Australia's current climate policies put people's health at risk as well as being inconsistent with our international obligations, including those under the Paris Agreement.

Ms Armstrong said: "The Australian health community is driven by a deep value commitment to help drive low carbon transition and see action on climate change as an opportunity to reduce serious and current threats to people's health, as well as an opportunity to improve health through low carbon strategies.

"A National Strategy on Climate Health and Wellbeing for Australia will provide a pathway for action and a framework against which we will hold our leaders accountable. The health professions are saying they want to work with parliamentarians and political parties to make the strategy happen."

For media enquiries please contact Fiona Armstrong fiona.armstrong@caha.org.au or 0438 900 005.

Download a copy of the Final Consultation Report
http://www.caha.org.au/final_consultation

Visit: <http://www.caha.org.au/national-strategy-climate-health-wellbeing>