



Media Release

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Queenslanders to benefit from health plan to combat climate change impacts

A Discussion Paper and Survey released today calls for health services and those providing aged care and childcare to contribute to the development of a climate change response plan for the sector.

The Human Health and Wellbeing Climate Adaptation Plan for Queensland (H-CAP) discussion paper is part of an effort to develop climate adaptation plans to support the Queenslanders to be better prepared for a climate affected future.

The Queensland Government has funded the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) and the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) to develop a health and wellbeing climate adaptation plan for the state.

Project Lead Dr David Rissik said: "This is an exciting initiative which is aimed at building awareness within the health and wellbeing community about climate change. We want to include stakeholders input about the most effective way forward."

The paper introduces the wide range of impacts climate change is having on the health and wellbeing of the community, including heat stress and the impacts of extreme weather. It highlights the need for services and organisations to develop plans and strategies to adapt.

The diverse population, climate, and the size of a state like Queensland create a number of challenges for community health and wellbeing. The community includes healthcare, childcare and aged care, and it intersects with virtually all sectors including the vulnerable communities sector and the natural environment sector.

"The survey results will help to identify climate related challenges, barriers that prevent action, and what the best strategies are to respond," Dr Rissik said.

Workshops will also be held in Toowoomba (6th March), Brisbane (8th March) and Cairns (9th March) to consult stakeholders and help identify each region's unique climate change related challenges.

"The plan will be an important driver of climate related action in Queensland," Dr Rissik said. "It will help people to know what has been done already in Queensland to support responses to disasters and emergencies and provide a strategic way forward for the health and wellbeing community in terms of long term preparedness for climate change."

“Climate change adaptation is not only a government responsibility. It is an issue that needs to be owned by everyone. Private and government health and wellbeing providers need to ensure that they have considered the risks to their organisations and their clients, and are prepared for what the future brings.”

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Links

The Discussion Paper is available at <https://www.nccarf.edu.au/content/climate-health-and-wellbeing-plan-queensland-h-cap>

The Survey for Qld Health and Wellbeing Stakeholders is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QHCAP>