



CLIMATE AND
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

Media Statement - 8 October 2018

Public health warning: exceeding Paris targets puts hundreds of thousands of lives at risk

Australian health professionals have declared the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report a public health warning and called on the federal government urgently develop a national climate and health policy.

CAHA Vice President Dr Rebecca Patrick said: “The world’s leading climate scientists are again telling us predicted rises in land and sea temperatures from global warming present a serious danger to the health and safety.

“The report makes clear the world’s current trajectory of global warming due to continuously rising greenhouse gas emissions is putting us on track for a rise of 3 to 4 degrees or more.

“We cannot delay halting the use of fossil fuels any longer with strong policy needed to help Australia transition away from fossil fuels and protect human health from the damaging effects of climate change.”

CAHA Executive Director Fiona Armstrong said: “Our current pathway will bring further catastrophic impacts for human populations, and dramatic losses of other species.

“With just one degree of global warming we are already seeing devastating impacts. Across the world, people are dying in extreme heat waves, food production is threatened, massive ecosystems are breaking down.

“There is still a chance to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees and avoid the worst impacts of climate change if we make radical emissions cuts now.

“Collectively, we need to [more than double the efforts](#) being made globally to avoid a ‘hothouse Earth’ that will be incompatible with human civilisation. The stakes could not be higher,” said Armstrong.