



CAHA welcomes the WA Government's action on climate change and health Media Release 11 April 2019

The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA), a coalition of over 30 health organisations, today welcomed the Western Australian Government's release of its [Sustainable Health Review](#). In particular in relation to the reports recommendation for the state's public health system to address the effects of climate change on the community's health.

CAHA, which coordinates the [Global Green and Healthy Hospitals](#) network in Australian and New Zealand, provides health industry and health professionals with practical support to reduce their ecological footprint and promote public and environmental health.

Fiona Armstrong, Executive Director of CAHA said it was important to note that the review had linked climate mitigation and adaptation work in health as a means to addressing major public health issues.

"We know that action on climate change has a positive impact on the health of the community and on reducing the costs associated with treating ill health associated with chronic health conditions that are often directly impacted by our lifestyle and environment.

"Increasing active transport and decreasing air pollution, for instance, would improve the health of the community by helping to reducing rates of obesity, diabetes and heart disease." Fiona said.

Ms Armstrong also said that public hospitals and health professionals could make important contributions to educate the community about the health benefits of a clean environment and sustainable health care delivery.

"Public health services are energy and water intensive and produce lots of waste, but in leading by example and delivering health services in a more sustainable way, we can help the community understand the health benefits of action on climate change.

"Health professionals are increasingly concerned about the environmental impact of health services, particularly as they witness the effects of climate change on their patients and clients, they want to see government taking action on the issues of environmental sustainability and climate change in health and so we welcome the leadership shown by the McGowan Government."

The Climate and Health Alliance are leading the Our Climate Our Health campaign calling for a National Strategy on Climate Health and Well-being for Australia

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Climate and Health Alliance Members include: [Australian Association of Social Workers \(AASW\)](#), [Australian College of Nursing \(ACN\)](#), [Australian Council of Social Service \(ACOSS\)](#), [Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association \(AHHA\)](#), [Australian Health Promotion Association \(AHPA\)](#), [Australian Institute of Health Innovation \(AIHI\)](#), [Australian Women's Health Network \(AWHN\)](#), [Australian Medical Students' Association \(AMSA\)](#), [Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation \(ANMF\)](#), [Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association \(APNA\)](#), [Australian Psychological Society \(APS\)](#), [CoHealth](#), [CRANaPlus](#), [Doctors Reform Society \(DRS\)](#), [Friends of CAHA](#), [Healthy Futures](#), [Health Issues Centre \(HIC\)](#), [Health Nature Sustainability Research Group \(HNSRG\)](#), [Health Services Union \(HSU\)](#), [Kooverup Regional Health Service \(KRHS\)](#), [Pharmacists for the Environment Australia \(PEA\)](#), [Public Health Association of Australia \(PHAA\)](#), [Psychology for a Safe Climate \(PSC\)](#), [Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union \(QNMU\)](#), [School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of NSW](#), [School of Public Health, University of Sydney](#), [Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health \(SARRAH\)](#), [Victorian Allied Health Professionals Association \(VAHPA\)](#), [Women's Health East \(WHE\)](#), [Women's Health in the North \(WHIN\)](#)