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# A National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia



# About CAHA

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Coalition of health groups working together to advocate for climate action to protect health, and working to reduce the environmental footprint of the healthcare sector

Partner and affiliate of international NGO Health Care Without Harm

Considered a leader in Australia and globally within the health community

Part of Climate Action Network Australia - bringing health perspectives and health voices to the climate movement

Part of the broader global effort – founding member and on board of the Global Climate and Health Alliance [www.gcha.org](http://www.gcha.org)



# What we do

Reports

Briefing papers

Submissions

Position papers

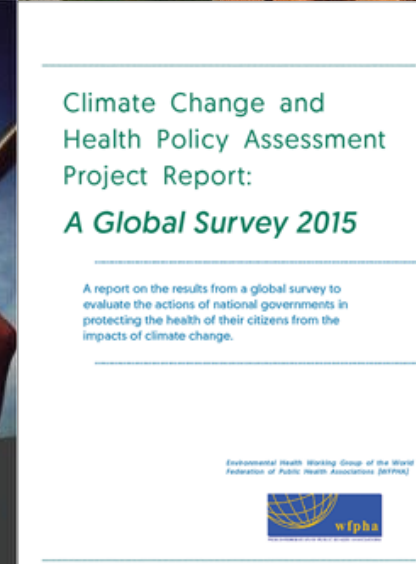
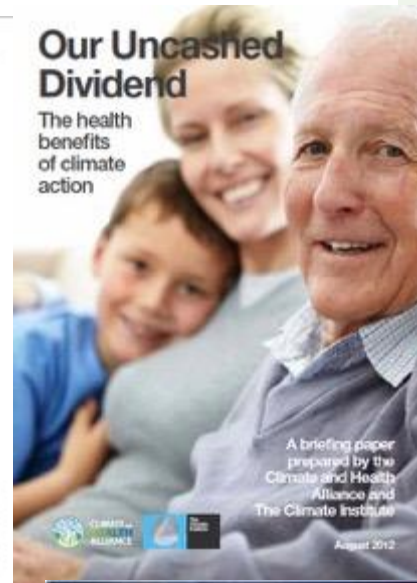
Films

Seminars and forums

Think tanks

Greening the health sector

Informing and engaging the sector



# Background to NSCHW

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Global Climate Change and Health Policy Survey Report - global project led by CAHA for the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA)

First-ever global benchmarking survey of national climate and health policy

Evaluated how nations are responding to the health impacts of climate change

Showed Australia lags behind other industrialised nations in protecting its citizens from the major health risks associated with global warming

# Paris Agreement

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The Paris Agreement obliges parties to consider their citizens 'right to health' in the context of national climate change response, and to consider health co-benefits in context of mitigation policy

Without a national strategy, Australia lacks any mechanism to ensure this occurs.



# Consultation

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June 2016: Discussion Paper:  
Towards a National Strategy on  
Climate, Health and Well-being

August 2016: Online Discussion  
Forum using pax.republic platform

September 2016: Report from  
responses to survey

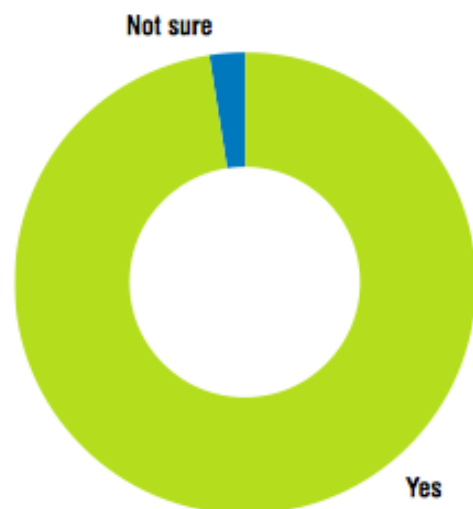
October 2016: Health Leaders  
Roundtable

**TOWARDS A NATIONAL STRATEGY  
ON CLIMATE, HEALTH AND  
WELL-BEING FOR AUSTRALIA**  
DISCUSSION PAPER

June 2016



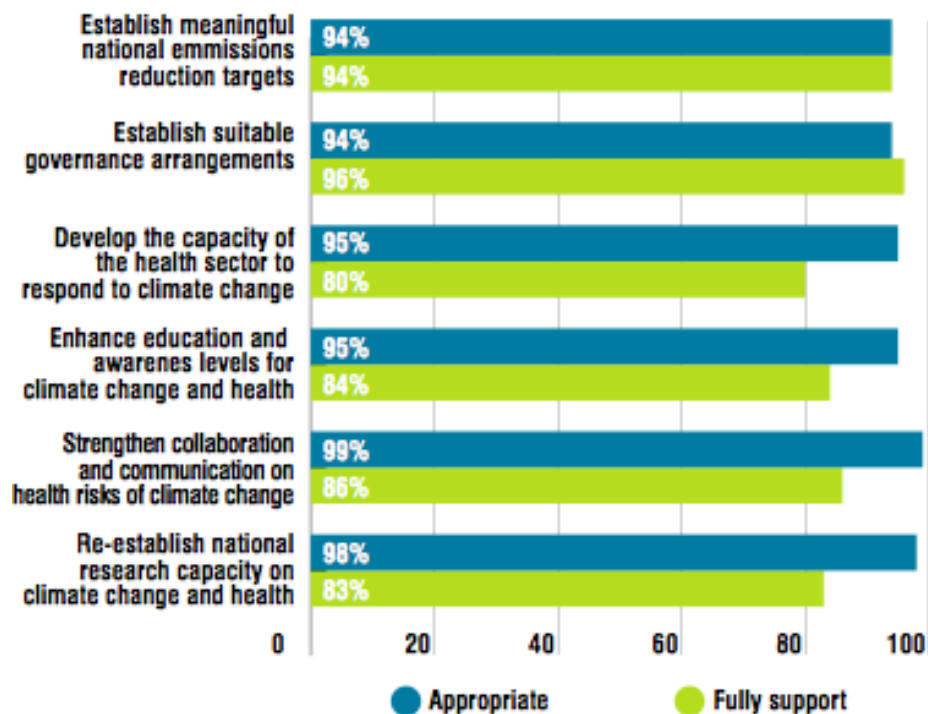
## 6a: Level of support for a National Strategy for Climate, Health and Well-being



**Fig. 22. Support for a national strategy by respondents**

There was overwhelming support for a National Strategy with 98% of respondents indicating Australia needs a National Strategy for Climate, Health and Well-being.

In terms of the themes identified in the Discussion Paper, there was strong support for both the appropriateness of each of the themes, and for their inclusion in the proposed Framework for the National Strategy.



# How we see the framework

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- A high-level framework to guide government policy and decision-making processes in addressing climate change and health risks
- Assist the Federal Government in fulfilling its international obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement, and its commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Facilitate vertical (national, state and local governments) and horizontal collaboration (across multiple sectors) to address this complex problem
- Deliver “win-win’ climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, which both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the social and economic burden of ill-health in the population
- Increase understanding and awareness; provide a ‘menu’ of policy options; and a launching point for discussion and further development





Public Health Association  
AUSTRALIA



NATIONAL RURAL  
HEALTH  
ALLIANCE INC.



RACGP

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners



AASW  
Australian Association  
of Social Workers



Australasian College of  
Health Service Management



VICTORIAN  
ALLIED HEALTH  
PROFESSIONALS  
ASSOCIATION



Australian  
Nursing &  
Midwifery  
Federation



ahha  
australian healthcare &  
hospitals association



CLIMATE AND  
HEALTH  
ALLIANCE



msav  
medical scientists  
association of victoria



CRANAplus  
improving  
remote health



CATSINaM  
CONGRESS OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES  
STRAIT ISLANDER NURSES AND MIDWIVES



AUSTRALIAN  
MEDICAL STUDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION



WOMEN'S HEALTH  
IN THE NORTH  
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Nursing

Advancing nurse leadership



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DRS  
DOCTORS  
REFORM  
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Federation  
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apna  
Australian Practice Nurses Association



NSW  
NURSES &  
MIDWIVES'  
ASSOCIATION

# The Areas of Policy Action

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- 1** Health-Promoting and Emissions-Reducing Policies
- 2** Supporting Healthy Communities
- 3** Education and Capacity Building
- 4** Inter and Intra Governmental Collaboration
- 5** Emergency and Disaster-preparedness
- 6** A Sustainable and Climate-resilient Health Care Sector
- 7** Research

# Outcomes so far

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Positive responses from members of all political parties (Coalition government, Australian Labor Party and The Greens)

Positive feedback from Federal Department of Health

Support from two political parties to co-host an event to launch the Framework at Parliament House in June

The Coalition, ALP and The Greens indicating they may/will develop policy positions using the framework

It's a long game, but our experience shows investing in consultation, bringing the views and perspectives and expertise of stakeholders – and a coalition of supporters – is welcomed by parliamentarians and policymakers, and has the potential to bring about policy change

*“Don't just shout at us; show us how.”*