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Western Health



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INSTITUTE OF HOSPITAL ENGINEERING, AUSTRALIA
SUPPORTING HEALTH FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Report: Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum 2019

The Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum, presented by the Climate and Health Alliance, Western Health and the Institute for Healthcare Engineering Australia, and supported by the Australian Hospitals and Healthcare Association took place over two days in September 2019.

The Forum focused on the big picture changes are needed within our healthcare system to address climate change and environmental sustainability, as well as what can be done in individual hospitals and health services to reduce healthcare's environmental impacts.

Topics covered included the carbon footprint of healthcare, climate risk and corporate governance, technological innovations, water and energy planning, wellness and healthy buildings, waste management, social procurement, health and climate change research, environmental strategy and framework development, and more. Presenters were from many different backgrounds including health professionals, government representatives, researchers, industry consultants and sustainability professionals.



The Forum was opened on the first day by **Natasha Toohey, Executive Director of Operations at Western Health** who outlined some of Western Health's many environmental achievements such as their recent 300 kW solar PV installation, that a third of their waste is now diverted from landfill, that they're recycling and repurposing single-use metal instruments, and much more.

The **Victorian Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Anthony Carbines MP** (pictured left) opened the Forum on the second day. Mr. Carbines spoke of the importance of addressing environmental sustainability in healthcare, outlined the Victorian Government's commitments to addressing climate change as required by Victoria's Climate Change Act of 2017 and the Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan, and highlighted some of the environmental successes happening in public health in Victoria.

The forum was the Australian launch of the *Healthcare's Climate Footprint: How the Health Sector Contributes to the Global Climate Crises and Opportunities for Action* report developed by Healthcare Without Harm and Arup. **The report gives the first ever estimate of healthcare's global climate footprint, finding that it is equivalent to 4.4% of global net emissions.**

If the global healthcare sector were a country, it would be the fifth-largest greenhouse gas emitter on the planet. The report calls for a global roadmap for climate-smart health care in

order to reduce emissions, while meeting goals such as universal health coverage. The report also outlines immediate actions that stakeholders from across the health sector should take.

Terence Jeyaretnam, Partner, Climate Change and Sustainability at EY, delivered a keynote address on Climate Risk and Corporate Governance (pictured right). He gave an overview of some of the climate challenges society faces, highlighted global and national policy responses to climate change, as well as legal and financial drivers that are guiding corporate practice in relation to climate change, and outlined information Directors need to know about climate risk to perform their duties responsibly.



Program summary

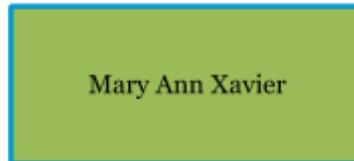
The Forum program is [available here](#). Presentation slides and recordings are [available here](#). Grace Wong, a Pharmacist and green champion at Western Health and Founder of [Pharmacists for the Environment Australia](#), expertly facilitated the Forum.

Summary of topics covered:

- Ground source heat pump technology
- Wellness and healthy buildings
- Victorian DHHS program and strategy updates
- Energy and water planning
- Changes to the National construction codes
- Reverse osmosis and AS4187 Sterilisation Standard
- Healthcare's global climate footprint
- Healthcare climate challenge and GGHH
- The carbon footprint of healthcare in Australia
- Social procurement framework
- Developing an Organisation-wide Environmental Strategy
- Greening the pharmacy
- Corporate governance and climate risk
- Health and climate change understanding research
- Practitioner attitudes to environmental sustainability in general practice
- Developing a Social and Environmental Responsibility Framework and Action Plan
- Repower Health Program: Growing solar power on health services



Joan Ko



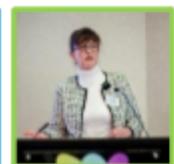
Mary Ann Xavier



Dr Forbes McGain



Monica Page



Grace Wong

- Waste Management in healthcare
- Recycling Bed Curtains
- Recycling in the emergency department
- The Envision hands program

The Forum included a **'Project Pitch'** session, which gave attendees an opportunity to pitch for \$1000 funding for an environmental project.

Five pitches were made on:

- Glove and hairnet recycling
- Kinguard recycling
- The *Medical Pantry* project
- Reusable pediatric oxygen saturation probes
- Developing an online tool for Green Clinics

The winning pitch was awarded to the [Medical Pantry](#) project with prize money donated by Daniels Health.

A lively **panel discussion** focusing on how environmental sustainability intersects with infection prevention, quality and safety, rounded out the Forum. Panel participants included Libby Muir, Registered Nurse; Dr Kylie McIntosh, Safer Care Victoria; Zoran Bukarica, OHS Officer, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation; and Richard Bartolo, Manager, Infection Prevention, Western Health.

Croakey, an independent, not-for-profit journalism organisation reported on the forum here - <https://croakey.org/greening-healthcare-forum-cutting-one-percent-of-a-hospitals-energy-use-is-a-lot-of-carbon-saved/>

Attendance



138 people attended across the two days of the Forum. Attendees came from diverse backgrounds including: healthcare executive and management; environmental sustainability; health professionals including nurses, physicians, allied health, public health physicians; policy development; engineering; administration; building and facility managers; infection prevention, OH&S;

support services; health and environmental consultants; healthcare manufacturers, suppliers and contractors; health and environmental researchers and students; and State government representatives

Attendee feedback

Feedback was positive with 89% of attendees surveyed reporting that they were likely or very likely to recommend future Forums to colleagues. Attendees commented on the high quality of presentations on a range of topics from diverse speakers, and said they enjoyed connecting with like minded healthcare workers.

“Thank you for providing such a well thought out forum. I left on an absolute high and overflowing with ideas.”

“Comprehensive program with sustainability approaches from different perspectives. The speakers were all fantastic. Opportunities for collaboration were excellent.”

“The case studies were very useful to illustrate where work is already happening.”

“I really enjoyed the discussion and the networking. You curated a great program.”

“I felt inspired”



Forum Partners:



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