

The RACP have thus far declined to write to health super funds calling on them to divest from fossil fuels. But with a climate change-themed RACP Congress coming up in mid-May, now's the perfect time to change the game. **Add your name at:** www.healthyfutures.net.au/racp

Dear RACP Board,

Physicians have a long and proud history of speaking out against public health catastrophes. In 1854 John Snow removed the handle from the Broad Street pump, saved lives from cholera and established epidemiology as a canon of modern medicine. In 1951 Hill and Doll began a medical crusade against tobacco and saved generations from lung cancer. Today climate change looms as the greatest health threat of our time¹. Climate change is driven largely by fossil fuel companies², many of whom have deliberately misled the public regarding climate science³ in order to maximise their own profits at the expense of public health. It is not enough for us to bewail this crisis - we must take action.

We are proud that the RACP has divested from fossil fuels. However we remain concerned that the majority of RACP members still have their super unwittingly invested in fossil fuel companies. We therefore request that the RACP write to HESTA and First State Super, Australia's largest two super funds catering specifically to health professionals, and ask them to divest from all companies classified as "Tier 1" in terms of fossil fuel exposure on Market Forces' Super Switch website^{4,5}.

We do not ask that the RACP make any comment about financial considerations as we recognise that this is outside the RACP's scope of expertise. However the health impacts of pollution and climate change are well within our scope of expertise. With the greatest health threat of our time bearing down upon us it behoves us to request that HESTA and First State Super at least consider divesting from fossil fuels on health grounds as they did with tobacco.

Will the RACP write to HESTA and First State Super asking them to divest from fossil fuels?

Thank you, we look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

References:

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2. Griffin, P. (2017). The Carbon Majors database: CDP Carbon Majors report 2017. Available at <https://www.cdp.net/en/reports/downloads/2327>
3. Muffett, C. & Feit, S. (2017). Smoke and fumes: the legal and evidentiary basis for holding big oil companies accountable for the climate crisis. Available at <http://www.ciel.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Smoke-Fumes-FINAL.pdf>
4. Market Forces (2018). ASX fossil fuel exposure. Available at <http://superswitch.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ASX300-Fossil-Fuel-Exposure-31-Dec-17.pdf>
5. Market Forces (2018). MSCI world fossil fuel exposure. Available at <http://superswitch.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/MSCI-World-Fossil-Fuel-Exposure-31-Dec-17.pdf>