



Climate Health WA Inquiry

Information for witnesses

The Climate Health WA inquiry was established under Part 15 of the *Public Health Act 2016* to review the current planning and response capacity of the health system in relation to the health impacts of climate change, and to make recommendations for climate change mitigation and public health adaptation strategies.

Professor Tarun Weeramanthri has been appointed by the Chief Health Officer to lead the inquiry.

Public Hearings for the Climate Health WA Inquiry

A series of public hearings is being held to gather information in relation to the Climate Health WA inquiry.

Hearings are part of the information gathering process for inquiries and are held under section 231 of the *Public Health Act 2016*. The hearings for the Climate Health WA inquiry will be held in public. People and organisations with particular knowledge and expertise relevant to the inquiry have been requested to appear.

The hearings will be led by Professor Weeramanthri and those asked to appear (witnesses) will be asked a series of questions.

Witnesses will be advised of the time and location of their particular hearing.

What happens at a hearing?

Witnesses at a hearing should arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled hearing time. This will allow time for you to complete a witness details form. You will be escorted to the witness table by a staff member when your hearing is about to commence. If another public hearing is already in progress, you are welcome to observe proceedings before being called to give your evidence.

Professor Weeramanthri will begin by asking you to state your name and the capacity in which you are appearing. He will invite you to make a brief opening statement should you wish to do so.

You will then be asked a series of questions which will allow Professor Weeramanthri the opportunity to obtain information on the inquiry topic and/or to clarify aspects of any written submission you have made. You are required to answer all questions asked, but if you cannot provide the answer at the time, you can undertake to provide it as a written submission after the hearing.

While witnesses will not be required to take an oath or make an affirmation, it is important to understand that it is an offence under section 236 of the *Public Health Act 2016* to give false or misleading answers or other information to the inquiry.

Information you provide in answer to a question at a hearing is not admissible in evidence in any proceedings other than those for an offence under section 236 of the *Public Health Act 2016* relating to giving false or misleading information.

A written record (transcript) will be made of what you say at your hearing. This transcript will become a public document and may be quoted or paraphrased in the

inquiry report. Further information on how your transcript is treated is provided below.

Are the hearings public?

The hearings for the Climate Health WA inquiry are public hearings. This means that members of the public and the media may attend. Audio recordings of the hearings will be made and may be made publically available.

Any request to have all or part of a hearing held in a closed session should be made to Professor Weeramanthri for his consideration well in advance of the hearing date.

What happens after the hearing?

As soon as possible after the hearing you will be provided with a transcript of your hearing to allow you to make corrections of transcription errors, but not the content or style. You will be asked to return the transcript within a set period of time. If a corrected transcript is not received, it will be deemed to be correct.

All transcripts of public hearings will be made available on the inquiry website.

The evidence gathered through the public hearing process will form part of the overall information gathered as part of the Climate Health WA inquiry and will help inform its findings and recommendations.