



Overview of written submissions

Climate Health WA Inquiry

19 December 2019

Background

In March 2019, the WA Minister for Health announced a statutory inquiry into the health impacts of climate change in WA, in accordance with section 15 of the *Public Health Act 2016*. The Inquiry has clearly defined [terms of reference](#) setting out the aim and the required outcomes, including that a final report detailing the Inquiry's findings, conclusions and recommendations be completed by March 2020. This report will be submitted to the Minister for Health for consideration.

To inform the final report and its recommendations, a number of approaches were undertaken to collect up-to-date, WA-specific information on climate change and health against the terms of reference. This included an open written submission process, whereby anyone with an interest could provide information to the Inquiry. This process, and a summary of the submissions received, are provided below.

Process

The written submission process commenced on 24 June 2019. Letters were written to a range of key stakeholders inviting them to provide input; the process was also promoted on social media, via a media statement from the Minister for Health and during the public forums that were held across the state throughout the submission period. Submissions from individuals and organisations were accepted via the Department of Health's online consultation portal, email and post.

The online consultation portal closed on 30 August 2019. A small number of submissions provided by email and post were accepted after this date. The Inquiry is currently reviewing all submissions and the content will be used to inform the Inquiry's final report.

Submissions received

A total of 158 written submissions were received by the Inquiry. Of these, 70 were from individuals and 88 were from organisations. The majority (77%) were from Western Australia, while 21 per cent were received from other states. Of the remaining submissions (2%), one was from the United Kingdom while the origins of two other submissions could not be determined.

A diverse range of organisations lodged submissions to the Inquiry. They are summarised in the table on the following page. Please note not all organisations are listed.

Type of organisation	Organisation
Government – health State, national and international health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WA Department of Health and seven Health Service Providers, the Mental Health Commission, aged care expert reference group, Healthway • Chief Health Officers of Queensland and Victoria, Public Health Services in Tasmania • The Sustainable Development Unit in the United Kingdom
Government – non-health Emergency services, various state government agencies, national advisory body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services, WA State Emergency Management Committee, Emergency Management Australia • WA Departments of: Primary Industries and Regional Development; Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety; Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries • The WA Transport portfolio, Water Corporation, Commissioner for Children and Young People • Climate Change Authority (national)
WA local government Shires, Towns and Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metropolitan (5) and regional (3) local governments • Peron Naturaliste Partnership
Peak bodies Aboriginal support and advocacy, local government, social services, industry union, resources sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation • WA Local Government Association • WA Council of Social Service • Maritime Union of Australia • Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA
Professional colleges and associations National medical colleges, state-based and national professional associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National colleges of anaesthetists, nurses, physicians, surgeons, emergency medicine • National associations for social workers, medical students, public health • State associations for health promotion and private hospitals, the Australian Medical Association WA
Research, academia and education Academic and research institutions, schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, the University of Western Australia • Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Water Sensitive Cities, Telethon Kids Institute, FrontierSI • Quintillian School (year 3), Rural Clinical School of WA
Health and environmental organisations Health and environmental advocacy, environmental health, conservation, private health, business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy groups including 350.org, Citizens Climate Lobby, Climate and Health Alliance, Globalactive, Perth NRM, Doctors for the Environment (state and national), Doctors Reform Society of WA • Environmental health groups (local, state and national) • Conservation Council of Western Australia • HBF Health Ltd, Echo Credits
Community and social justice organisations Voice of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Red Cross, Uniting Church, Millennium Kids, People with Disabilities WA, Newborn Mothers, Maar Koodjal, Friends of Australian Rock Art

All submissions are now [available](#) on the Inquiry website. They are listed by surname of the individual or by name of the organisation, unless the submitter requested the submission to be kept anonymous.

Next steps

The information obtained through the written submissions will be used to inform the Inquiry's final report. Additional evidence-gathering approaches that have been undertaken include:

- A series of public forums held across the state
- Targeted consultation, including additional forums and meetings with groups considered to be particularly vulnerable to climate change, and
- Formal public hearings, where the Inquirer invited key individuals and organisations to formally provide evidence.

A [summary report](#) of the public forums is available on the Inquiry website. An additional summary report of the targeted consultation forums will be published in early 2020. Audio recordings and written transcripts of the [formal hearings](#) are being uploaded as they become available.

To learn more, visit health.wa.gov.au/climatehealthwa or email the Inquiry team at climatehealthwa@health.wa.gov.au