

Climate Health WA Inquiry

About your submission

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or group?

No

Yes

If yes, please identify the organisation:

Your contact details

The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the Inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.

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Publication of submissions

Submissions will be published with the name of the submitter unless otherwise indicated below. Do you consent to be identified in the published submission?

Yes, I / my organisation agree to be identified

No, I / my organisation request to remain anonymous

Terms of Reference

You are encouraged to address at least ONE of the Terms of Reference as listed below. Please select which item/s you will address:

- 1. Establish current knowledge on the implications of climate change for health in Western Australia (WA) and recommend a framework for evaluating future implications.
- 2. Identify and recommend a program of work to manage the implications of climate change for health in WA, which will protect the public from the harmful health impacts of climate change.
- 3. Identify and recommend a program of work to manage the implications of climate change for health in WA, which will strengthen the preparedness and resilience of communities and health services against extreme weather events, with a focus on the most vulnerable in the community.

- 4. Identify and recommend a program of work to manage the implications of climate change for health in WA, which will reduce the contribution of WA health services to climate change and other detrimental impacts.
- 5. Identify and recommend a program of work to manage the implications of climate change for health in WA, which will enable WA Health services to implement change, including energy efficiency, to a more sustainable model.
- 6. Evaluate the likely benefits (health and wellbeing, social and economic) arising from climate change mitigation strategies, with a focus on WA health services.
- 7. Define the role of the Department of Health in leading public policy on climate change and health.
- 8. Recommend the Terms of Reference, scope and preferred methods for undertaking a climate change vulnerability assessment for the health sector.
- 9. Recommend the Terms of Reference, scope and preferred methods for developing a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the health sector.

Submissions response field

Please type your response to the item(s) selected above into the field below. Alternatively you may provide your submission as a separate attachment (suggested maximum 5 pages).

In this submission, I argue, Department of Health, along with Department of Education, can become a very effective way in communicating 'climate change' to various communities. Take a compulsory vaccination program for an example. This program undoubtedly has effectively communicate to families the importance in vaccinating their children, regardless their background.

Taking recent examples from 'school strike for climate' movement, it has been argued that it has effectively change their sceptical parents regarding climate change issues (<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/children-change-their-parents-minds-about-climate-change/>). Therefore, I argue, in this short submission, Department of Health (along with Department of Education) can become instrumental in implementing actions in communities in order to inspire systemic changes in communities in response to climate crisis.

As a parent of two young boys myself, I have never heard my children, teachers, or fellow parents discussing anything related to climate change (let alone climate crisis). This highlights that general communities in Western Australia, I believe, still have not taken the gravity of the problem seriously. Those who do take the issue seriously, have nobody to discuss or share their frustration (apart from the alienating social media). I believe this can lead to other mental health issues, which I wish to write further, but not the subject of this particular submission.

What is exactly Department of Health's role to lead in this particular matter? I will not pretend I'm the expert of the matter, but I do hope it will lead the implementation of compulsory education in WA schools regarding climate change and its impacts. Department of Health can lead the discussion, along with Department of Education to introduce the curriculum to WA schools.

One of the low hanging fruit that I can immediately see is taking more seriously the

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implementation of 'ride or walk to school' day. This can be a gateway for further education about Australia's transport emission, and the requirement of reducing it. A day for awareness is not enough, hence, I argue the requirement of constant material (i.e. education) around carbon emission (not just transport emission). This is a huge and complicated topic, hence, I'm not going to pretend a single submission will be enough.

In short, if the adults unwilling to do it, let's hand over to those who can do and inspire us (adults) to do better.

Please complete this sheet and submit with any attachments to: Climate Health WA Inquiry