

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The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the Inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.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

Thank you for the opportunities that this review presents . It represents an opportunity to address the daily disquiet that many of health workers feel about the damage our daily work does to the environment .

WA Health could encourage and facilitate for individual health services to prepare disaster plans for extreme health events , and find strategies to manage a large influx of sick people into our emergency departments and GP practices.

In order to mitigate the contribution that Health makes to greenhouse gas emissions the simplest is to maximize solar panels on hospitals with provision for battery storage for when this option becomes financially viable. This will require a considerable financial commitment .

Redirect waste away from landfill in its contribution to methane production – ie actively encourage recycling of metal , cardboard and paper . Reduce reliance on single use plastic items and reuse items where safe

Understand that many staff experience a significant cognitive and emotional dissonance in regard to the way that wasteful practices are forced on them in their work place without clear infection control benefit . For example the discarding into land fill of metal instruments that have a very high embodied energy content - (ie significant greenhouse gases created in their manufacture ) . The general public repeatedly express astonishment that this is our accepted practice . A return to autoclaving , whilst also using energy , would help mitigate this waste and would create jobs .

There is a large amount of enthusiasm and energy amongst staff for change to more

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environmentally effective practices . This energy could be harnessed at no extra cost ie staff would gladly put effort into sustainable practices that reduce harm to the environment and would welcome the news that this sentiment is held to be important to the senior management team .

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