



- 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).**

Transition Town Bayswater (TTB) is a not-for-profit, non-political community group aligned with the global [Transition Town](#) movement, which assists communities to transition to a more sustainable and resilient way of life. Membership of TTB is made up of a diverse group of community members who live in or around the City of Bayswater and who want to keep our community strong and connected to achieve our broad sustainability goals. TTB works closely with and is supported by [Environment House in Bayswater](#).

There are many synergies between promoting physical and mental health and acting on climate change. Community based organisations, such as ours, which promote active transport, local food production, social inclusion and increases awareness of climate change can work alongside state and local government to mitigate climate change at a local level.

*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.*

Health department facilities could maximise and focus on garden space that showcases gardens that controls water runoffs during extreme weather events. Local councils have the expertise to support the installation of gardens that optimise water safety during severe weather events. The health department should work with experts in making sure their garden spaces align with the latest evidence around runoff.

TTB currently run movie nights about four times a year and has a facebook page

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where we share events and information. This is already being used to reach local community members in order to take action on climate change. A collaboration with health department staff who focuses on actions around severe weather events could include presentations to local community members co-facilitated by community groups such as ours, especially if there are actions to be taken by community members.

*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.*

Energy audits should be undertaken to collect base line data, which can then be used to measure progress in reductions in energy use. Many health department services (community health nurses for example) are operated from small local government facilities across the metropolitan area. It would be important to work with local government to improve the energy use of these facilities. Local energy auditors could be contracted to undertake these audits.

*7. Define the role of the Department of Health in leading public policy on climate change and health.*

The health department acting as a role model by reducing their own climate change related emissions is an important action.

A member of the TTB attended one of the public forums and heard other attendees talking about the possibility of doctors and nurses playing a role in advocating for action on climate change, since they are trusted professionals. TTB is supportive of this, but would like to see it expanded to the use of Allied Health Professionals (AHP) as well. A doctor, nurse and AHP led campaign for example could promote active transport – using bikes and walking instead of cars. This would have a dual purpose of reducing carbon emissions, but also increase physical activity. As a local group, we could then run bike riding events and bike repair cafes to support community members to take up active transport options. Physiotherapists could attend this event and offer 'Bike Fit' posture assessments, as they already do at other events. We are currently planning a bike repair café in early September 2019 and have previously organised community bike riding events.

Doctors, nurses and AHP taking young people seriously when it comes to the anxiety and anger of young people around state and federal inaction on climate change could have positive effects on the mental health of young people. These professionals could use their trusted status to become climate change ambassadors. This could take the form of health department staff stating their support for action on climate change by advertising what the health department are doing to combat climate change; for ex:

- this many health department employees take public transport/ride/walk to work every day – find out how you can do the same...
- local facilities have just finished their energy audits and are now in the

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process of reducing their energy consumption by...

- recycling have increased since new health department rules were introduced which required staff to recycle – what can you do at your workplace (showcase current systems already in place that are reducing waste)

Local groups such as ours could then tie in with local campaigns to highlight local transport options for example.

In summary, TTB is very supportive of the health department taking actions to reduce their impact on climate change as well as getting ready to act on the now inevitable effects of climate change such as severe weather events. An emphasis on supporting young people around their mental health where it is impacted on by the effects of climate change would be very welcome

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