



Australian Health Care Reform Alliance

C/- PO Box 280 Deakin West ACT 2600 ABN 64 051 645 674
www.healthreform.org.au

Follow the lead of WA on climate and health



AHCRA welcomes the announcement by the Western Australian Government of an Inquiry into the impacts of climate change on health, to be conducted by WA's former Chief Health Officer, Professor Tarun Weeramanthri.

The inquiry will review the health system's capacity to respond to the effects of climate change and make recommendations for improvement.

We know that changing climate conditions, including more frequent and intense extreme weather events, can lead to increased injury and illness patterns including infectious diseases, airway diseases and heat-related illness.

It is therefore vital that our health system and emergency services are prepared for these events and can minimise their harmful health impacts. It is also vital that we work within our health system and wider community to reduce emissions and waste and increase energy efficiency.

The World Health Organisation has called climate change the biggest global health threat of the 21st century. We need to act now at a local, state, federal and global level to minimise the impact of this threat on Australia and the global community.

At a national level AHCRA welcomes the commitment from Labor to develop Australia's first National Strategy on Climate Change and Health, Framework, based on the National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-Being for Australia, developed by the Climate and Health Alliance. AHCRA also supports the specific policy on addressing the health effects of climate change developed by the Australian Greens.

We also call on the Coalition to follow the lead of Labor, the Greens and the WA Government and recognise the need for government action on climate change and health.

29 April 2019

www.healthreform.org.au