



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The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the Inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.

First name

[REDACTED]

Surname

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

Phone

Email

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).

With major changes coming to Perth and other urban centres, current housing stock relies heavily upon air conditioning. Health should and could help in the lobbying of the building regulations to increase energy efficient housing. This in turn would reduce demand on electricity, gas and wood resources and allow our ageing population the affordability of staying cool in summer, to reduce health heat events. Given electricity prices are increasing year upon year, the Elderly will continue to rely upon air conditioning until they can no longer afford the bills. At that point, it may be tempting to not use air conditioning increasing their risk to heat illnesses.

With public housing stock (eg Homes West), all new build should be tested for coolness in summer. Good efficient housing stock can stay cool for up to four days in heatwaves. Building materials like Rammed Earth could be used to maintain cool housing stock (but materials can be explored as long as a result is achieved). WA Health should act with the housing industry to come up with a minimum standard and insist this minimum level be included for all public housing stock. Ideally, new legislation could be created to ensure this happens in the private sector too.

When we explored this Green Housing market in the UK (with the Welsh Housing Development Authority), we found that public policy change with housing stock, increased the market size exponentially to the Green Buildings materials industry which in turn, brought costs down for energy efficiency products. A public policy change like this, will increase opportunities for employment in this new sector and have greater health benefits for our community.

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