

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The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the Inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.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 | Sam |
| Surname | Burrow |
| Address | [REDACTED] |
| Phone | [REDACTED] |
| Email | [REDACTED] |

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).

Thanks for conducting this Inquiry about such a critical issue for the future of all.

I have already participated in the Inquiry in various ways but would like to add a few general points that I hope may be of use in future considerations. These points provide general suggestions regarding a program of work to manage and evaluate the implications of climate change for health in WA. I'm sure there is nothing here that you haven't already heard, but I feel the following aspects warrant particular mention.

- A program of work informed by a social model of health would appear to be particularly relevant to this complex challenge.
- A multi-disciplinary approach that transcends disciplinary and organisational silos may benefit from the latest thinking around collaboration, co-design/production and innovation.
- An extensive public health campaign could be informed by other successful campaigns (e.g. smoking cessation) as well as the expertise of communications marketing and other relevant sectors. The fields of psychology and health promotion will also have much to add to the design and implementation of such campaign.
- Leveraging and supporting the work of active community, school and other self-organising groups may raise awareness and build resilience within communities.
- Indigenous knowledge(s) may inform a new way of thinking and living that is holistic and sustainable, and that is needed now but will become increasingly necessary in the future.
- Data linkage and analytics offer an invaluable source of information to inform and

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evaluate any program of work in this area, but will require dedicate investment and capacity building. WA has existing capacity in this area that will be facilitated by current work within the state towards privacy and data sharing legislation.

- Ensuring that all community groups, including children and youth, are empowered to contribute to the co-design of this program of work will be important.

- An independent, cross-disciplinary and multi-agency taskforce could have broad oversight of efforts to address climate change within the state. It could also contribute nationally and internationally towards a more coordinated response. It would need to have long-term funding and to be free from the uncertainties of political cycles. It could potentially be enshrined by legislation.

I'd be happy to provide references to sources of information that support the above suggestions, should they be of interest. I look forward to learning more about the results of the Inquiry, and the plans for future action.

Kind regards
Sam Burrow

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