

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The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the Inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.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

#### **Leadership and communication are key to risk mitigation and adaptation of community to climate issues**

Overarching leadership at all levels of government is required to enable the action required to support global efforts on climate change including IPCC and Paris Agreement. Western Australia provides a unique opportunity to be forerunners in leadership by communicating with all ministerial portfolios, be enduring and bipartisan. Strategies to build climate mitigation and adaptation strategies need to be cross sectorial and implemented at an individual, community and system level. State governments have a responsibility, to their residents, to implement a range of cohesive and coherent policies across a range of climate drivers including the food system, education, transport and town planning as this will affect the place in which people live and work and the place in which their children will live and work, today's decision making needs to protect the Western Australian community for future generations. WA DOH can be innovators and change champions to increase community awareness of required climate change actions related to health.

#### **Recommendations for the WA Department of Health:**

WA DOH to reduce, mitigate and offset GHG emissions from the health services sector including trees, bushland, waste management, healthy food environments and role modelling and educating staff and community and model the

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change. This needs to be supported with a monitoring strategy and build in levels of accountability with defined timelines to ensure actions are achieved in a timely manner.

WA DOH to promote use of consistent communication and messaging to profile/promote local health initiatives that reduce waste, support local initiatives, for example, the keep cup, urban farming at a commercial and individual scale, grey water.

WA DOH to work with ECU to develop online short courses for community groups, community leaders, volunteers, CEO of the food retail sector to educate about the food system and health implications with a focus on climate.

WA DOH set up a register of local climate initiatives that can be supported by volunteers –from universities, schools, retail groups, community groups, to undertake GHG offset actions - use volunteer workforce – to be the change agents, through media platforms to increase reach.

WA DOH to support wider dissemination of climate and health information and impacts to all sectors to drive policy awareness, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

WA DOH to guide LGA how to strategically catalyse required change.

WA DOH to support collation of LGA activities (captured through monitoring) to feedback to federal government as part of SDG reporting

WA DOH to have strong internal climate change mitigation and adaption policies spread across all departments, that incorporate implementation strategies and accountability processes to model the change that is required.

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