

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The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the Inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.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	Dia
Surname	Dinard
Address	██████████
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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).

There is no doubt that health services/health institutions is a major contributor to global warming due to the increase trend of using disposables ,single use items and pre- packed consumable items. This increase trend (I believed) is necessary to comply with standards policies and codes of health practices for the safety of the public health and efficiency of health service provisions. In addition, new innovations , new technologies and creations of "super tools ,machines,equipment and instruments" have contributed to the increase of disposables along with the patency of each companies products. To explain this, one company's equipment would require a special attachment only specifcally produced by that company. As we enjoy the convenience of "throw away , no cleaning, no processing and into the bin", we created a problem of creating exponential waste and yet with minimal strategies on how we manage the disposal of such mountainful waste. If we do not have appropriate waste management strategies and inefficient waste disposal, sooner or later we will have to deal with the catasthrophic problem.

As a person who witnessed the existence of people in the smoky mountain,(smoky mountain is a name given to a place with mountain of waste emitting methane gas and burning slowly at the same time in the third world countries") I have seen the impact of such situation to humans, environment and to the fauna and flora. acurrently, in my profession, I can see day in ,day out, how much wastage we come up with.This is particularly applicable to the health instution providing service around the clock-24 hours. Such waste creation is either certain or as a result of accidental opening of items.Such waste creation can be from the following example situations....

~ prepackage consumables necessary for performance of procedures or surgery can

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contain additional items that is not necessarily needed for the such surgery/procedures. For example , 1 PREP- PACK in operating theatre contains sterile 5 x cotton balls, plastic forceps x 2 , white packs x2 , kidney dish container, 2 x plastic cup/gallipots and sheet drape. Out of these items, cotton balls ,plastic forceps,white packs x1 (sometimes 2),1 x gallipot are not use at all and throw in the bin. They are not used, completely sterile and into the bin. Why? Im guessing, this is because some institutions/hospitals use this PREP PACK for other procedures requiring all the items .

Im guessing the "tendering process" got to do with this situation.

~intravenous fluids are pack generously in plastic. Surely, if it is for safety reason that no one is allowed to tamper the spout of the fluid bags, it can be safe to ask why cant we just protect the spouts of these fluid bags instead of placing the whole fluid bag in the plastics?

~Drugs and medication ampules, vials,carpules and bottles are wrap individually

~electrical pads wrap in aluminium foil individually. Im not aware of special reason why they have to be wap in aluminium foil, and in that sense individually.This item does not have to be sterile. Can"t the manufacturer place it collectively in a box say 10 pads in a box?

~Disposable electric intrument with components namely electrical leads, other metals such as copper,alluminium ,stainless steel or titanium and alkaline batteries are all dispose...sad to say in the bin. It would be wise to segregate these items for repurpose recycled or reuse.

~ Machines that require electricity are contantly ON although these machines are not use during low activity times or at night. Would it be more energy saving if we turn them off when not use.

~Situations where the worker open a disposable item(s) , thinking it will be necessary for the procedure and yet it is not required. Maybe the worker have fear of the unknown,say worried the doctor will scream that the item is not ready straight away that in anticipation the worker will just open the item.

~Procedure /Surgery is wrongly booked and therefore wrong equipment have been prepared, a result of misinformation and miscommunication

~Surgery/procedure did not proceed as planned either due to misdiagnosis , complication ,etc.and therefore changed of plan which will result to preparation or addition of more and different items and equipment.

~Problem associated with the workplace environment say no adequate ventillation or

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power failure during surgery/procedure/ treatment that requires bioengineering intervention and therefore may affect the flow of surgery or procedures or patients treatment.

These are just some of the areas that I can pin point. I believed that no matter how highly I desire to contribute with the changes and help with the solution to tackle global warming, a single person is not sufficient to do a significant changed, It will require a coollective many to create a big significant changed for the better. People have to change their way of thinking when it comes to how we utilized equipment and disposables, how we use and dispose of these items consciously and morally think of the effects to others. We have to increase and take accountability of our actions and own to the aftereffect **AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY OF WHAT PROBLEM WE HAVE CREATED**. There should be a willingness among us to deal with the problem and collectively participate and cobtribute to problem solving ideas and strategies. The department of health should assess and look into the tendering process of procuring items for the health system and reevaluate the effectiveness of it. It would be more economically and environmentally sustainable if we look into our required equipment , purchase what we need, and supply what what we use compared to just purchasing items that will just go in the bin . The top level management/goverment leaders have to develop strategies policies and procedures that reduce the impact of global warming including responsible waste management that do not compromise the delivery of safe health system.

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