

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: Year 3 Quintilian School

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The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the Inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.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

████

Surname

██████

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).

Climate Health WA Inquiry April 2019 Year 3 Quintilian School

Successive governments state 'education and children's health is their priority' when seeking election and once in office. If education is a cornerstone for health promotion and if the education system can support these messages, we have the chance to initiate widespread behaviour change stemming from the youngest members of our community. In a similar way to the tobacco education movement that has occurred very successfully from the late 80's. Knowing Western Australia has been burning fossil fuels and farming on an industrial level for 100s of years and furthermore, knowing for the past 30 to 40 years this is having an adverse effect on society and children in particular. The impacts of this must be clarified and taught in schools. As a Year 3 classroom teacher and the Sustainability Coordinator at Quintilian School, I feel the current understanding and learning offered regarding the implications on the health and wellbeing for the future needs to be clearer across all schools in WA. Starting with the removal of the pseudo-science offered by industries which muddies the waters and allows governments to do little or nothing.

The children in my class have been investigating and discussing climate change. Its effects, what we as a school community are doing and what else we can do to help with this problem. As their teacher I mediated the discussion and acted as scribe for their ideas. The next few paragraphs are the children's views and ideas.

What We Know

From our class discussion we decided one of the most important things that need to happen is WA must move away from a TAKE, USE, POLLUTE attitude to our planet and embrace REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE. We are 8 and 9 years of age, so, we

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have two big questions. Shouldn't we always have clean and fresh FOOD, AIR and WATER? Shouldn't the grown-ups in charge be able to promise us that?

We love Australia! Our country can and should keep us happy and healthy. Children today deserve good crops in the future as well as healthy fish in a clean ocean. We love the Ningaloo Reef; we don't want it to disappear through acidification. Aussies are awesome sports men and women. We want a chance to be the next generation of medal winners, cricket players and footy stars. Our lungs and hearts need fresh air to breathe. We don't want polluted air like we see in other countries and cities. Western Australia has some of the world's best wetlands. That means lots of wildlife and fresh clean water to drink for us all. What will happen if this end and our water gets more and more polluted?

What We Already Do

At Quintilian School we are already doing lots to help prevent climate change. We have Waste Free Tuesdays, Sustainability Club, an organic garden, solar Panels and Sustainability Coordinators. We are building a frog bog and wetland environment. We have composting and worm farms. Our Year 2s monitor taps and lights around the school, making sure the adults haven't left them on. We keep chickens and grow veggies and herbs. We use storm water tanks for watering our garden beds. We collect used batteries for safe disposal as well as old tooth brushes and tubes. Our Pre-Primary students collect Soft n Noisy single use plastics for safe recycling. We also do waste audits, which can be yucky but help us to realise how much we throw away and what we need to reduce. Maybe this could be done in every school in WA, what a difference that would make.

What We Could Do Next

We do lots but know we must do more! Us Year 3s are planning on creating posters to inform the school about the dangers we might face in the future if we don't do something now. We want to BAN all single use plastic in the school. Eventually we want to become a Plastic Free School. If we can do this, surely the grown-ups in WA can try a little harder too. We intend to write a letter to our head teacher and ask if we can work towards making these things happen here at Quintilian. If they can, why not make them happen in every school? So, once we have improved here, we will write to all the principals in all the schools in WA and ask they do the same. We want to talk to other children in other schools and find out their ideas and what they think we could do. We need to fix things now.

When you were 8 did, you have to worry about breathing polluted air and drinking unsafe water when you grew up? This is the reality we are faced with because of decisions made by all the grown-ups in charge that say "Education and children's health are our priority." Then allow the water to get dirty, the air more polluted and pretend this hasn't and isn't happening. Please help!

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Yours sincerely,

Year 3 students, Quintilian School 2019

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