

## Health and medical groups call for PM to scale up climate commitments after international negotiations in Glasgow

The George Institute for Global Health and the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) have partnered with 35+ health and medical groups in producing a joint letter to Prime Minister Scott Morrison, following the 26th UNFCCC Climate Change Conference (COP26). The letter calls on the Federal Government to scale up international climate commitments to protect the health and wellbeing of Australians and Pacific Island neighbours.

The Australian Medical Association, the Public Health Association of Australia and Black Dog Institute are among the 35 health and medical groups as individual signatories, along with the 70+ groups represented by CAHA. Other signatories include the Lowitja Institute, Australian Physiotherapy Association, Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, and the Obesity Policy Coalition. See the full list of signatories below.

According to the signatories, there is an urgent need to scale up climate action to protect health and wellbeing - and there are immediate and tangible economic benefits with the economic value of avoided ill-health and associated productivity gains from ambitious climate action able to deliver considerable savings for health care and social service budgets.

The **Joint Letter** calls for four key actions from the Federal Government to:

1. Embed health into the [National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021-25](#)
2. Strengthen Australia's 2030 emission reduction target before the 2022 international climate conference, as required by the Glasgow Climate Pact
3. Commit further funding for loss and damage in the Pacific Islands to protect regional health system resilience
4. Fully resource and implement recommendations in the [Climate Change and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Discussion Paper](#) by the Lowitja Institute

Copies of the letters were also sent to Energy and Emissions Reduction Minister Angus Taylor, Health Minister Greg Hunt, and Environment Minister Sussan Ley.

**See quotes below or for media interviews please contact Remy Shergill on 0423 075 895.**

### Resources:

- [Open letter to Prime Minister Scott Morrison](#)
- [Full list of signatories](#)

### Comments:

[Climate and Health Alliance Executive Director Fiona Armstrong:](#)

“Over 50 nations committed to embed climate change considerations in their domestic health policies at Glasgow - Australia is increasingly out of step with the rest of the world; not just on climate policy in general, but in how it responds to the growing evidence of the impact of climate change on people's health. The majority of countries now also include health in their

national climate plans to the Paris Agreement. As one of the most climate vulnerable countries in the world, Australia must prioritise health protection from climate change just as it has done from COVID - this starts with putting health at the centre of the national adaptation plan, but must include supporting our climate-vulnerable neighbours with funding to respond to now unavoidable harms from climate change.”

Co-chair Planetary Health Working Group, The George Institute for Global Health, Chelsea Hunnisett

“Climate change and human health are inextricably linked. The Australian Government needs to take this seriously because a worsening climate will cause more disease and injury, health systems will struggle to cope and the inequalities in our society will grow. We need decisive leadership that embeds health into climate action.”