



Australian Government

Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing



Interim
Australian
Centre for
Disease
Control

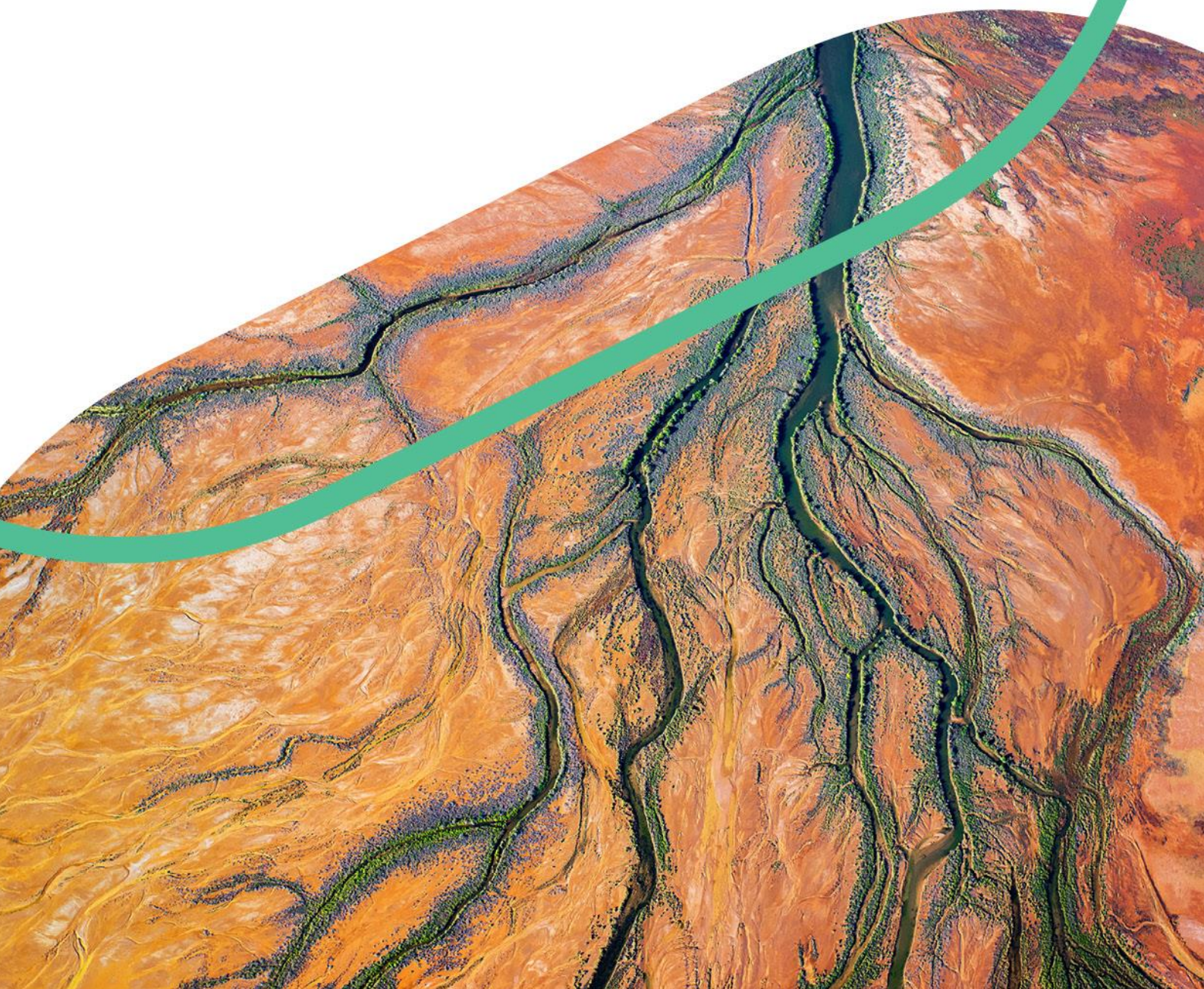
National Health and Climate Strategy

2024 Implementation Progress Report

December 2023 – March 2025

27 March 2025

Last updated: 4 June 2025, to correct minor typographical errors



Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Government acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to Elders both past and present.

Executive Summary

Launched in December 2023 by the Hon Ged Kearney MP, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Australia's first National Health and Climate Strategy sets out a whole-of-government plan for addressing the impacts of climate change on health and health systems, whilst also addressing the contribution of the Australian health system to climate change. The Strategy commits to 49 actions across four objectives, to be completed over five years, and establishes a framework for an ongoing program of work over the coming decades. Its vision is "healthy, climate-resilient communities and a sustainable, resilient, high-quality, net zero health system".

This report, which complements the [Implementation Plan 2024-2028](#), outlines progress in implementing the Strategy through to March 2025. The National Health, Sustainability and Climate (NHSC) Unit, part of the interim Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC) operating within the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, has overall responsibility for Strategy implementation as well as lead responsibility for implementing many of the Strategy actions. Some further actions are the responsibility of other teams in the interim CDC or Department, while others are the responsibility of other Australian Government agencies.

Since launching the Strategy, the NHSC Unit has taken important first steps in delivering the Strategy's vision. 14 of the 49 actions are complete or in the final stages of completion, while implementation has commenced on a further 25 actions. Implementation has been undertaken via a systematic approach to coordination across all levels of government, and by working closely with external stakeholders. Collaboration across the Australian Government has sought to integrate health considerations into all climate policies and programs, in line with a 'Health in All Policies' approach. To facilitate this collaboration, a governance structure has been established to oversee implementation of the Strategy, consisting of:

- a National Climate and Health Program Board,
- a Climate and Health Expert Advisory Group, and
- a State and Territory Working Group.

Implementation of actions affecting First Nations communities has been informed by the principles of shared decision-making outlined in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. In line with this approach, in late 2024 the interim CDC signed a contract with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation to develop proposed governance arrangements for co-design of First Nations health and climate policy.

Key progress in 2024

Some key highlights from the first year of Strategy implementation include:

1. **Environmental sustainability and climate resilience standards for health services:** The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC), with input from the NHSC Unit, piloted a new [module](#) on safety and quality standards for health service organisations. The module's standards aim to embed environmental sustainability and climate resilience in health service organisations' business-as-usual governance and clinical practice and will inform future editions of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards.

2. **Health Technology Assessment (HTA):** The [HTA Policy and Methods Review](#) was published with a recommendation (Recommendation 43) that the Australian Government consider the potential to publicly report and consider the environmental impacts of health technology products in HTA decision-making, in line with international developments in comparable jurisdictions. The NHSC Unit joined the Steering Committee of a British Standards Institution project to develop a new internationally recognised standard on assessing the environmental impacts of pharmaceutical products.
3. **Health workforce engagement:** The interim CDC and the ACSQHC hosted a roundtable on climate change and health involving all specialist medical colleges and the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association to discuss and agree a collaborative approach to reducing health system emissions by optimising models of care and tackling unwarranted variations. A [Joint Statement](#) was endorsed by all organisations that attended the roundtable agreeing to develop a Framework for Action on Climate Change and Health, involving meaningful and demonstrable actions to develop high-value low-emissions models of care, and mobilise the health workforce to lead the health system response to climate change. A Health College Working Group, involving representatives of health profession colleges across medicine, nursing and midwifery, and allied health has been established to co-design this framework.
4. **International collaboration:** The Australian Government joined an [international collaboration](#) to decarbonise healthcare supply chains. At COP29 in November 2024, the Australian Government [announced a \\$2.5 million Pacific Climate and Health Resilience Package](#) as part of the Partnerships for a Healthy Region Initiative. Progress in delivering this package will be reported in the 2025 Implementation Progress Report.
5. **Climate and health research:** The National Health and Medical Research Council [announced](#) \$11 million in research funding on the impacts of climate change on Australians' health and wellbeing. The Medical Research Future Fund announced a [\\$6 million grant opportunity](#) for research addressing the impacts of climate change on Australians' mental health. The interim CDC [published](#) a systematic mapping review of climate and health research, to inform engagement with research bodies about future funding opportunities.
6. **Health system emissions measurement:** The interim CDC [published](#) a report on baseline greenhouse gas emissions estimates for the Australian health system encompassing emissions from scopes 1, 2 and 3, as well as emissions from patient travel to and from health facilities. This report lays the groundwork for tracking health system emissions reductions over the coming years and will inform prioritisation of future mitigation efforts.
7. **Reducing emissions from anaesthetic gases:** The interim CDC [published](#) a guide to detecting and reducing leaks from nitrous oxide piping in health facilities. The NHSC Unit supported the Council of Australian Therapeutic Advisory Groups to convene an Expert Advisory Group on the use of desflurane, and developed an evidence review that informed a [March 2025 position statement](#) recommending health bodies consider not listing desflurane on hospital or state-based formularies.

Further details on implementation of specific actions in the Strategy is outlined below. Actions are only included if there is significant progress to report – progress in implementing actions not included in this report will be included in future annual Implementation Progress Reports.

Enablers Workstream

Actions completed (or NHSCU action completed)

○ 5.3 Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health

Completion status: Complete

Progress in 2024: The Australian Government joined the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH) and commenced participation in ATACH meetings. ATACH works to build climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems and promote the integration of climate change and health into national, regional, and global plans. Australia has opportunities to engage in a range of activities, including involvement in technical meetings and related initiatives aimed at addressing climate change and health priorities identified by member countries. Although this action is now complete, the NHSC Unit will continue to actively participate in ATACH in 2025 and beyond.

○ 7.2 Scan of Australian health and climate research

Completion status: Complete

Progress in 2024: In November 2024, the NHSC Unit in partnership with the Healthy Environment and Lives (HEAL) Network published a systematic mapping review of Australian research on climate change and health interventions, to inform engagement with research funding bodies to explore opportunities for new climate and health funding. While this action is now complete, in 2025 the NHSC Unit will continue to share the report with relevant stakeholders to explore new funding opportunities for interventional climate change and health research.

○ 7.3 National Health and Medical Research Council Targeted Call for Research

Completion status: Complete

Progress in 2024: The NHSC Unit support the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to issue a Targeted Call for Research on the impacts of climate change on health, wellbeing and the health system. While this action is complete, in 2025 the Unit will seek to engage with the successful grant applicants to explore opportunities for collaboration.

○ 7.5 Reviewing health and climate governance

Completion status: Complete

Progress in 2024: The NHSC Unit reviewed climate and health governance arrangements to consider how they might support implementation of the National Health and Climate Strategy. This review resulted in the establishment of three governance groups to provide advice and oversee implementation of the Strategy – a National Climate and Health Program Board, a Climate and Health Expert Advisory Group and a State and Territory Climate and Health Working Group. These groups will enhance collaboration across all levels of government, as well as across the wider climate and health stakeholder community. For further information, see the [National Health and Climate Strategy Implementation Plan 2024-2028](#).

While this action is complete, the NHSC Unit provides the Secretariat function for these groups, and continuing to create opportunities for provision of high-quality input into implementation of the Strategy will continue to be a major area of focus in 2025.

Actions substantially progressed



4.5 New sustainability and climate resilience standards for health service organisations

Completion status: Good progress

Progress in 2024: The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC), with input from the NHSC Unit, developed the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience Healthcare (ESCRH) Module for health service organisations. From June 2024 to January 2025 the module was piloted in 47 sites across the country. The purpose of the pilot was to understand where amendments were needed to support a clearer understanding of the actions and to see how pilot sites could adapt their safety and quality systems to reduce environmental impacts and climate risks. The module is now being revised based on findings from the pilot and will then be published as a voluntary module, with a view to the safety and quality standards in the module being incorporated in future updates to the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards.



5.4 Incorporating health considerations into Australia's next Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement

Completion status: Delivery commenced

Progress in 2024: The Australian Government has drafted six sectoral plans (for electricity and energy, transport, industry, agriculture and land, resources, the built environment) to support the Net Zero Plan, which will inform Australia's next Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement. The NHSC Unit has reviewed and contributed to drafting the sectoral plans.



7.1 Mobilising the health workforce to lead action on climate and health

N.B. Also relates to actions 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8 on optimising models of care and tackling low value care and unwarranted variations

Completion status: Good progress

Progress in 2024: In June 2024, the interim CDC and the ACSQHC co-hosted a roundtable on climate change and health involving all specialist medical colleges and the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) to discuss and agree on a collaborative approach to reduce health system emissions by optimising models of care and tackling low value care and unwarranted variations. Following the Roundtable, a Joint Statement, [Working together to achieve sustainability high-quality health care in a changing climate](#), was endorsed by the interim CDC, the ACSQHC, AIDA and all specialist medical colleges. The Joint Statement signatories agreed to develop a Framework for Collaborative Action on Climate Change and Health, involving meaningful and demonstrable actions to develop high-value low-emissions models of care, and mobilise the health workforce to lead the health system response to climate change. A Health College Working Group involving representatives from medical, nursing, midwifery, and allied health profession colleges has been established to co-design this framework.

Mitigation Workstream

Actions completed (or NHSCU action completed)

4.1 Reporting of estimates of health system greenhouse gas emissions

Completion status: Complete

Progress in 2024: In March 2025, the interim CDC published the report *Estimates of Australian Health System Greenhouse Gas Emissions, 2021-22*. The report provides baseline estimates of direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions by the Australian health system, including emissions from patient travel to and from health facilities. This report establishes a baseline against which the effectiveness of health system decarbonisation activities may be measured, and will inform prioritisation of future activities. While this action is marked as complete, ongoing work in this area will consider how to improve the estimation methodology in future updates to this report.

4.10 Moving towards zero emissions buildings

Completion status: In final stages

Progress in 2024: The NHSC Unit provided feedback on the 2025 National Construction Code (NCC) as part of a public consultation exercise that closed on 1 July 2024. The NCC is a set of comprehensive, performance-based standards that regulate the design, construction, and performance of buildings in Australia, ensuring safety, sustainability and efficiency. The Unit's input focused on ensuring the health of building occupants is not compromised by extreme weather or air pollution associated with buildings' energy consumption by ensuring ventilation and air quality safety measures. The Building Minister's Meeting to adopt the 2025 NCC has not yet been scheduled.

Actions substantially progressed

4.2 Alignment of approaches to reporting health system greenhouse gas emissions

Completion status: Nearing completion

Progress in 2024: A review of state and territory health system emissions measurement and reporting was commissioned and received. The report is currently being finalised by the NHSC Unit and will be shared with state and territory colleagues in 2025 for feedback. The report will be used to explore opportunities to align approaches to estimation and reporting of health system greenhouse gas emissions across jurisdictions, to support benchmarking and dissemination of best practice.

4.4 Developing a health system decarbonisation roadmap

Completion status: Nearing completion

Progress in 2024: The Department of Health and Aged Care joined the Transitions to Sustainable Health Systems consortium led by Monash Sustainable Development Institute. The consortium is leading the development of a Net Zero Guide for health services and policy makers to build a high quality, resilient, net zero health system. The guide will identify priorities and

practical actions to accelerate emissions reduction in Australia's health system. The NHSC Unit has been involved throughout the development of the guide, including by attending several workshops and providing written input. The Net Zero Guide is in the final stages of drafting and is expected to be published by mid-2025.

4.9 Expanding use of NABERS ratings for health and aged care facilities

Completion status: Delivery commenced

Progress in 2024: The NHSC Unit supported the National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) team to secure support for the development of new energy efficiency ratings tools for private hospitals and medical centres. The NABERS National Steering Committee agreed in March 2024 that these would be the next energy efficiency ratings tools developed, and is currently seeking funding to develop these tools. The NHSC Unit has engaged with stakeholders to advocate for expanding the use of existing NABERS tools and for their use in other policy documents, leading to their inclusion within the National Aged Care Design Principles and Guidelines. The NHSC Unit joined the Australasian Health Infrastructure Alliance Environmentally Sustainable Development Sub-Group and engaged with work to develop a NABERS Net Zero Certification Tool for public hospitals.

4.12 Reducing emissions from desflurane

Completion status: Nearing completion

Progress in 2024: The NHSC Unit supported the Council of Australian Therapeutic Advisory Groups (CATAG) to establish an Expert Advisory Group to review the use of desflurane in the Australian public hospital system. The NHSC Unit provided Secretariat support for the Expert Advisory Group and led drafting of an evidence review. The Expert Advisory Group developed a position statement, subsequently endorsed by CATAG, recommending that health bodies consider not listing desflurane on hospital and state-based formularies. The position statement was supported by the Australian Society of Anaesthetists and the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists and [published](#) in March 2025.

4.13 Reducing emissions from nitrous oxide

Completion status: Good progress

Progress in 2024: In partnership with the University of Melbourne, the NHSC Unit [published](#) a guide on detecting and reducing leaks from nitrous oxide. Several studies have shown that between 70% and 90% of piped nitrous oxide is lost to leaks. The identification of nitrous leaks will support healthcare facilities to avoid waste, reduce costs, and prevent environmental harm.

4.14 Reducing emissions from respiratory inhalers

Completion status: Delivery commenced

Progress in 2024: The NHSC Unit participated in roundtables convened by Asthma Australia which resulted in the publication of the [National Sustainable Asthma Care Roadmap Roundtable Report](#). The Roadmap aims to improve asthma care in Australia whilst reducing the environmental impact of inhalers. The NHSC Unit is now in discussions with Asthma Australia, the National Asthma Council of Australia and other stakeholder organisations to establish a steering group to develop and implement the roadmap.

4.15 Review of sustainability in nutrition standards in health care

Completion status: In final stages

Progress in 2024: The NHSC Unit, in partnership with the Healthy Environments and Lives (HEAL) Network, undertook a review of sustainability considerations in food and catering policies in public hospitals in Australia and internationally. The review, which also examines case studies and peer reviewed literature related to sustainable food services in hospitals, was delivered in mid-2024 and is currently being finalised for publication as an interim CDC report.

4.16 Supporting the systematic implementation of waste reduction action

Completion status: In final stages

Progress in 2024: The NHSC Unit, in partnership with the HEAL Network, undertook a systematic review of potential ways to reduce health and aged care waste and its associated greenhouse gas emissions. This systematic review forms the centrepiece of an interim CDC report which also provides a taxonomy of health system waste reduction actions as well as Australian case studies. The report is currently being finalised for publication.

4.17/5.2 Decarbonising health system supply chains

Completion status: Delivery commenced

Progress in 2024: On Earth Day 2024 the Australian Government announced it is joining an international collaboration to decarbonise health care supply chains. Other members of the collaboration include England, Ireland, Norway and Germany. Working together to align green procurement requirements will be an effective way to address health system Scope 3 emissions, given national health systems share many of the same suppliers. The NHSC Unit has been meeting regularly with the collaboration to learn from other national health systems who have already implemented green procurement requirements. Working closely with the Australia and New Zealand Health Procurement Roundtable, jurisdictions, other Government departments, and suppliers, a key focus of the NHSC Unit in 2025 will be to draft national health system guidelines on green procurement and sustainable resource use.

5.1 Considering the role for emissions footprinting of health technology products

Completion status: Delivery commenced

Progress in 2024: The NHSC Unit, in collaboration with academics from the HEAL Network, engaged with the Expert Reference Committee overseeing development of the [Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review](#) to propose reporting and consideration of environmental impacts as part of Australian Health Technology Assessment. This resulted in the review including a recommendation (Recommendation 43) to this end. An Implementation Advisory Group has been established to guide implementation of the review and the NHSC Unit will engage with this group on options for implementation of Recommendation 43.

The NHSC Unit is also representing the Australian Government on the Steering Group of a British Standards Institution project to develop [PAS 2090](#), a new internationally recognised standard on measuring the environmental impact of pharmaceuticals, which will be a key enabler of implementation of Recommendation 43.



6.6 Taking account of sustainability considerations in the Australian Dietary Guidelines

Completion status: Delivery commenced

Progress in 2024: The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is reviewing the Australian Dietary Guidelines, which seek to offer the best advice on dietary patterns that promote optimal health and wellbeing for the Australian population. A public survey identified sustainability as one of the key issues to be reviewed. To address this, NHMRC has established a Sustainability Working Group to review the evidence and provide expertise on diet and sustainability. The Sustainability Working Group reports to the Dietary Guidelines Expert Committee. The Expert Committee is responsible for advising on the guideline recommendations. The NHSC Unit is an observer on the Sustainability Working Group.

Adaptation Workstream

Actions completed (or NHSCU action completed)

3.8 Developing a National Health Emergency Response Plan

Completion status: In final stages

Progress in 2024: The NHSC Unit provided advice to the Health Emergency Management Branch in the interim CDC to ensure the National Health Emergency Response Plan was suitable for responding to climate-related health emergencies and extreme weather events. A final update will be provided in the 2025 Implementation Progress Report after the plan is published.

6.9 Considering climate resilience in developing the National Housing and Homelessness Plan

Completion status: In final stages

Progress in 2024: The NHSC Unit provided advice to the Department of Social Services on climate and health considerations in the development of [the National Housing and Homelessness Plan](#). An update will be provided in the 2025 Implementation Progress Report.

6.21 Considering climate and health in the National Urban Policy

N.B. not an action in the National Health and Climate Strategy but noted here as a significant contribution to an important Australian Government policy document.

Completion status: Complete

Progress in 2024: The NHSC Unit provided advice to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts on climate and health considerations in the development of the National Urban Policy. The National Urban Policy was [published](#) in late 2024. It outlines the Australian government's vision for urban places that are liveable and equitable, productive and innovative, and sustainable and resilient.

Actions substantially progressed

3.1 Undertaking a National Health Vulnerability, Capacity and Adaptation Assessment

Completion status: Good progress

Progress in 2024: The NHSC Unit provided extensive advice to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, the Australian Climate Service, and the CSIRO on the health component of the National Climate Risk Assessment (NCRA). The NCRA first pass assessment was published in March 2024 and identified 56 nationally significant climate risks facing Australia across seven systems of national importance. The NHSC Unit's input significantly shaped the nine risks identified for the 'health and social support' system (one of which was prioritised for further analysis in the Second Pass Assessment) and also informed consideration of health dimensions in other prioritised risks. After the National Climate Risk Assessment is published, further work on this action will focus on undertaking a National Health, Vulnerability, Capacity and Adaptation Assessment.



3.2 Developing a Health National Adaptation Plan

Completion status: Good progress

Progress in 2024: The NHSC Unit provided advice to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to inform development of the health chapter of the whole-of-society National Adaptation Plan. The Unit also commenced development of a Health National Adaptation Plan, which will complement and support the whole-of-society National Adaptation Plan by providing a clear framework for the national response to the impacts of climate change on population health and health systems in Australia. A discussion paper outlining a proposed framework for the Health National Adaptation Plan was developed and circulated for consultation to state and territory health departments and other key stakeholders. Consultation included a series of stakeholder workshops, and soliciting written feedback on the discussion paper. Drafting of the Health National Adaptation Plan commenced in late 2024.



3.3 Developing guidance on risk assessment and adaptation planning

Completion status: Good progress

Progress in 2024: The NHSC Unit developed a draft set of guidelines for health system organisations on climate risk assessment and adaptation planning. Targeted consultation on the draft guidelines was undertaken and feedback was incorporated. A review of the health impacts of climate-related hazards was commissioned and received from the Curtin University WHO Collaborating Centre on Health Impact Assessment and Climate Change to inform advice to health system organisations about population health impacts to consider in when undertaking a climate risk assessment. A procurement exercise was undertaken to identify a supplier to support development of a climate-health reference manual containing climate scenario information for users of the guidance, with a contract being signed with Alluvium in March 2025.

First Nations Workstream

Actions completed (or NHSCU action completed)

6.7 Addressing the impacts of climate change on First Nations health and food security

Completion status: Complete

Progress in 2024: The NHSC Unit provided input to the development of the Remote Food Security Strategy Discussion Paper, as well as the consultation process and final draft of the National Strategy for Food Security in Remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities 2025-2035. The Strategy was developed by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) in partnership with state and territory governments and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health sector. The Strategy was released on 5 March 2025. While this action is now complete, in 2025 the NHSC Unit will engage with NIAA to identify opportunities for collaboration on the development and implementation of the Actions Plans under the Strategy.

Actions substantially progressed

6.10 Promoting the health benefits of improved First Nations housing and energy security

Completion status: Good progress

Progress in 2024: In November 2024, the Housing Policy Partnership – a forum with lead responsibility for governing First Nations Housing (one of four Sector Strengthening Plans under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap), and jointly chaired by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association and the Department of Social Services – discussed the relevant First Nations Actions in the National Health and Climate Strategy. The Unit also engaged with DCCEEW to explore opportunities to include a health perspective in the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy published in December 2024, and provided input into the development of the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy Implementation Plan.

3.4/3.6 First Nations leadership in climate and health

Completion status: Good progress

Progress in 2024: In 2024, the NHSC Unit undertook a procurement process to identify a suitable First-Nations-led organisation to develop a framework to support ongoing engagement and shared decision-making with First Nations people on health and climate policy. A contract with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (NACCHO) was signed in December 2024 for an initial term of 12 months. NACCHO and the NHSC Unit will work closely in 2025 to deliver a comprehensive consultation process with the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, relevant peak First Nations organisations, and other key stakeholders, to lay the foundations for future shared decision-making and co-design of health and climate policy.

Primary Care, Aged Care and Prevention Workstream

Actions completed (or NHSCU action completed)



3.11 Strengthening aged care quality standards

Completion status: In final stages

Progress in 2024: From 1 July 2025, a new Aged Care Act will give effect to [strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards](#), which include a dedicated outcome (Outcome 2.10) for emergency and disaster management. Providers of funded aged care services must demonstrate that emergency and disaster management planning considers and manages risks to the health, safety and wellbeing of individuals and aged care workers. In 2024, the NHSC Unit provided input on sustainability and climate resilience to the guidance materials that will accompany the strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards. This draft guidance has been released on the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's [digital toolkit](#).



3.12 Introducing aged care design principles and guidelines

Completion status: Complete

Progress in 2024: The NHSC Unit provided input into the National Aged Care Design Principles and Guidelines. This helped ensure environmental sustainability and climate resilience principles were incorporated into the document to encourage the design of aged care homes that help protect older people from the health impacts of climate change and support their wellbeing and quality of life in a warming climate. The guidelines provide a comprehensive, evidence-based resource to guide accommodation design to support the delivery of high quality, safe, respectful and dignified care for older people living in residential aged care accommodation. The [guidelines](#) were published in July 2024.



6.11 Promoting active travel

Completion status: In final stages

Progress in 2024: On 7 May 2024 the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Catherine King MP announced funding for a new \$100 million Active Transport Fund. The Fund seeks to increase active transport through the upgrade and construction of new bicycle and walking paths across Australia. Applications for funding opened on 31 October 2024, closed 13 January 2025 and successful applicants were announced in late February 2025.

The NHSC Unit engaged with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, who is administering the Fund, to share research on the health, social and environmental impacts of active travel and discuss considerations for program design. This engagement supported the inclusion of health, equity and environmental considerations in the Fund's focus areas' criteria.

Actions substantially progressed



3.9 Strengthening the role of primary care in emergency response

Completion status: Good progress

Progress in 2024: From 1 July 2025, Primary Health Networks will receive dedicated core funding to build capacity to manage emergency preparedness, planning and coordination functions across primary care in their local regions. This funding will assist in improving the capacity of PHNs to prepare for and respond to health-related emergencies which can include climate-related disasters and extreme weather events.



3.10 Improving aged care emergency preparedness and response capability

Completion status: Nearing completion

Progress in 2024: In 2024, the NHSC Unit engaged with the Aged Care Emergency Preparedness & Response Branch to help strengthen aged care emergency preparedness and response. The Unit also presented to state and territory emergency response agencies on climate and health and how this might affect emergency preparedness and response activity.

Activities in 2024 included: preparing and operationalising the High-Risk Weather Season 2024-25 Communications Plan; liaising with the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission to improve coordination, cross-communication and referral pathways; and upgrading and migrating the Severe Weather Action Tracker into a fully functional and interlinked dashboard.