



MB17-001914

Date sent to MO:<dd/mm/yy>
MPEG to complete

To: Minister Wyatt

cc: Minister Hunt

Subject: **Launch of a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia.**

Date / Time: Thursday 22 June 2017, 10.00am to 11.00am

Location: Senate Committee Room 1S3

Purpose: To Launch The Climate and Health Alliance *Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia.*

Key Issues:

1. **Australian Mitigation Action to Address Climate Change**
2. **Building Resilience to Climate Change**
3. **Australia’s Preparedness and Response to the Health Impacts of Climate Change**
4. **Emergency Response Arrangements**
5. **Sustainable Health System**

1. Australian Mitigation Action to Address Climate Change

The Australian Government is carefully managing the shift to a low emissions economy. The Government is reducing emissions while ensuring energy security and affordability remain our priorities.

Key Facts:

1. The \$2.55 billion Emissions Reduction Fund has contracted 189 million tonnes of emissions reductions at an average price of \$11.83 per tonne.
2. The Government has established the \$200 million Clean Energy Innovation Fund to support early stage and emerging clean energy technologies. This fund is co-managed by the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and ARENA.
3. The National Energy Productivity Plan will reduce the amount of energy used for every dollar of economic activity by 40 per cent between 2015 and 2030.

Contact Officer:	Ben Noyen	Assistant Secretary – Portfolio Strategies, Engagement and Coordination Branch	s22
Clearance Officer:	Mark Cormack	Deputy Secretary – Strategic Policy and Innovation Group	s22

Unclassified

4. We successfully beat our first Kyoto target by 128 million tonnes and are on track to meet and beat our 2020 target of five per cent below 2000 levels by 224 million tonnes.

2. Building Resilience to Climate Change

The Australian Government is committed to building the resilience of Australian businesses, communities and households to climate risks by providing climate change science and adaptation information, managing its own assets and services well, and by coordinating adaptation efforts at a national level.

Key Facts:

1. The Australian Government provided \$9 million over three years (2014-17) to the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) at Griffith University on the Gold Coast. This funding has contributed to the development of practical, hands-on tools and information to help local councils and communities make planning decisions that consider coastal climate risks such as sea level rise. Further information on all aspects of NCCARF's work can be found at www.nccarf.edu.au.
2. The National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy, released in 2015, articulates principles that underpin good climate adaptation and showcases some of the leading practice activities already underway across Australia. It outlines how Australia is managing climate risks in priority sectors like cities, health, water, agriculture and disaster management.

3. Australia's Preparedness and Response to the Health Impacts of Climate Change

Australia is in a good position to adapt to climate change, manage the unavoidable risks involved, reduce people's vulnerability, and to build resilience to minimise impacts. This is primarily due to our high levels of education, access to technology, and public health system which already has much of the required infrastructure and programmes in place.

Key Facts

1. At a national level, Australia manages programs to address many diseases, e.g. asthma – which is particularly prone to changes in air quality.
 - These programmes are managed on a relatively short timeframe and can be scaled up or down to meet any changes in prevalence.
2. Australia maintains a comprehensive surveillance system to monitor changes in incidence and trends of communicable diseases, including changes that may occur due to climate change.
3. Many of the actions to prepare for and manage the health effects of climate change lie with state and territory governments, e.g. surge capacity at public hospitals and emergency service responses during extreme weather events.

4. Emergency Response Arrangements

Australia has well established emergency response arrangements in place, including a consideration of how to manage key environmental risks and hazards.

Key Facts:

1. The Commonwealth manages and coordinates emergency responses to environmental events, including extreme weather events, through the National Health Emergency Management Standing Committee (NHEMS) of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee.

2. NHEMS provides advice on national approaches to prepare for and respond to health impacts of emergencies.
3. As well as State and Territory representatives, the core membership of NHEMS includes representatives from the Department of Health, Department of Defence, Emergency Management Australia (EMA) and other subject matter experts. The current chair of NHEMS is Associate Professor Peter Aitken (QLD).
4. Sudden onset disasters such as earthquakes and cyclones occur with little or no warning and often have devastating consequences on disaster-affected populations. Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) are groups of health professionals and support staff that can be rapidly deployed to a disaster zone, either domestically or internationally, to provide medical and logistics support services.
5. AUSMAT (Australian Medical Assistance Teams) is Australia's EMT. The AUSMAT workforce is drawn from all states and territories. AUSMAT is coordinated and trained by the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre (NCCTRC) in Darwin. The Australian Government is providing the Northern Territory government with \$63.5 million over four years (2015-2019) to maintain the AUSMAT capability.
6. The Department's Office of Health Protection provides secretariat support to the Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth), which provides environmental health advice under the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) framework.
7. OHP manage the National Incident Room (NIR), a key facility for use during environmental and other emergencies, as well as the National Medicine Stockpile.

5. Sustainable Health System

The Australian Government is working to ensure that Australia has, and continues to have, a flexible and sustainable health system.

Key Facts:

1. The Government will establish the Medicare Guarantee Fund from 1 July 2017 to ensure the ongoing funding of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) into the future.
2. Before each Budget, the Government will adjust annual contributions to the fund to ensure that it meets forecast expenditure from the MBS and PBS.
3. Commonwealth public hospital funding will continue to grow over the next four years from \$18.5 billion in 2016-17 to \$22.7 billion in 2020-21. This represents an increase of 22.8 per cent.
 - Commonwealth public hospital funding in 2020-21 is \$1.4 billion above the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2019-20 estimate of \$21.2 billion.
4. The Australian Government supports a range of preventive health activities which will reduce the vulnerability of the population to the health effects of climate change. These include:
 - Provision of \$10 million to the Heart Foundation to increase access to walking and other physical activity programs, and to establish the Prime Minister's Walk for Life Challenge to support up to 300,000 Australians to become new regular walkers.
 - Funding will also be provided to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners for a new \$5 million Healthy Heart Initiative to develop education and training material for GPs to support Australians to achieve a healthy lifestyle through increased physical activity and better nutrition.
 - Funding of \$4.4 million to Cancer Australia aimed at increasing Australia's research capacity to advance diagnosis, treatment, management and analysis of childhood cancer, and to improve data and awareness.

Unclassified
For Official Use Only

- Funding of \$1.4 million to Cancer Australia to fast track international research collaborations of paediatric brain cancer in Australia.

Sensitivities: Discuss any contentious issue/sensitivities for example, media interest.

Attendees:

Attachments

<u>Attachment A</u>	Speech
<u>Attachment B</u>	Order of events
<u>Attachment C</u>	Event Summary Sheet
<u>Attachment D</u>	Biographies of Key Attendees

This document was released under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 by the Department of Health

Speech

KEN WYATT

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AGED CARE

**LAUNCH OF A NATIONAL STRATEGY ON CLIMATE, HEALTH AND
WELL-BEING FOR AUSTRALIA**

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA 10 OCTOBER 2016

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today for this most important and timely event.

As I said to a similar event hosted by the Climate and Health Alliance in September last year; when we talk about climate change, we're usually talking about the health of the planet.

I also said that as a nation we are in a good position –

- to adapt to climate change
- to mitigate the risks involved
- to reduce people's vulnerability, and
- to build our resilience to minimise impacts.

Our good position is due to a number of factors –

- our high levels of education;
- access to technology, and
- fundamentally, from where I sit, a public health system which already has much of the required infrastructure and programs in place.

However, Climate change is affecting the health of all Australia and people around the world.

We need to acknowledge that there is a policy gap in responding to what is emerging as a global health crisis. Australia needs a nationally coordinated response to protect the health of its citizens from the impacts of climate change and to maximise the health co-benefits that accrue from strategies to limit global warming and climate change.

Often, in the Commonwealth Government space there are a range of constitutional issues and, let's be blunt, political issues, which prevent this kind of coordinated action.

The Commonwealth shares responsibility for health services with State and Territory Governments, and we work well to address many problems faced by Australia, including the health effects of climate change.

However, there are a range of issues which often prevent national action when the resources and responsibilities are split across jurisdictions.

What the Climate and Health Alliance have produced here is a Framework for a National Strategy that provides a roadmap to guide us all in our work.

It could, as an independent report, overcome some of the barriers to a policy space which has proved problematic. Commonwealth, the State and Territory Governments, Local Councils and the Australian People can use it as a guidance tool. It would be a common guide that could guide discussions about ways to respond to this threat, at a national, state and local level.

We don't have all the answers, as I said. But we do play our part.

At the Commonwealth level we are reducing emissions while ensuring energy security and affordability remain our priorities. National initiatives include:

- the National Energy Productivity Plan, which will reduce the amount of energy used for every dollar of economic activity by 40 per cent between 2015 and 2030; and
- The \$200 million Clean Energy Innovation Fund, which supports early stage and emerging clean energy technologies.

We are helping communities and businesses better understand and manage the impacts of climate change by providing the science, information and tools need to manage climate risks across sectors, including health.

- For example, the Bureau of Meteorology uses its expertise to provide services which help Australians deal with extreme events like drought, floods, fires, storm and tropical cyclones.

In the Health portfolio we are continuing our work to ensure that the health system is adaptable and sustainable.

We recently announced in the 2017-18 Budget a \$10 billion investment in Australia's health system and the health of Australians.

We are investing in ways to improve the health of Australians, and reduce their vulnerability to the health effects of climate change: by, for example, providing \$10 million to the Heart Foundation to increase access to walking and other physical activity programs, and to establish the Prime Minister's Walk for Life Challenge to support up to 300,000 Australians to become new regular walkers.

Just one of the many programs the Australian Government manages to improve the resilience of the population.

Finally, I welcome the *Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia* as an important guide for policy action for Australia.

Order of Events

10.00am Welcome and introductions (Fiona Armstrong)
10.10am Minister Greg Hunt / Minister Ken Wyatt
10.20am Shadow Minister Catherine King

This document was released under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 by the Department of Health

SUMMARY SHEET

Event: Launch of a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia.

Date 22 June 2017
Arrive 10.00am
Depart 11.00am
Duration One Hour

Person the Minister is to be met by

Name *Type text here*
Title

Contact phone

Venue Parliament House
Senate Committee Room 1S3

This document was released under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 by the Department of Health

Biographical Details

Key Attendees

Ms Fiona Armstrong, Executive Director of the Climate and Health Alliance
The Hon Catherine King MP, Member for Ballarat and Shadow Health Minister
Senator Richard Di Natale, Leader of the Australian Greens
Professor Peter Doherty, AC, FRS, FMedSci

Biographies

Ms Fiona Armstrong



Ms Fiona Armstrong is the founder and Executive Director of the Climate and Health Alliance. Ms Armstrong works in communications, policy, research and advocacy. She has a background as a health professional, journalist, in public policy analysis and advocacy. Her main interests are in health and climate policy. She is Founder and Executive Director of the Climate and Health Alliance, a founding director of CLIMARTE: Arts for a Safe Climate, a Fellow of the Centre for Policy Development, and an Associate at Melbourne Sustainable Societies Institute.

The Hon Catherine King MP



Ms King is a member of the Australian Labor Party and the Shadow Minister for Health and Medicare. Ms King is the member for Ballarat, Victoria.

Ms King was appointed Parliamentary Secretary in the portfolios of Health and Ageing and Infrastructure and Transport in the Gillard Government following the 2010 election. She held responsibility in the Health portfolio for nine health regulatory agencies including: the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Food Standards Australia New Zealand and the Organ and Tissue Authority.

On 18 October 2013, Ms King was appointed to the role of Shadow Minister for Health in the Shadow Cabinet led by the Hon. Bill Shorten. Ms King holds a Degree in Social Work and a Masters in Public Policy from the Australian National University and is currently completing a law degree from Deakin University.

Senator Richard Di Natale



Senator Di Natale was elected to the federal parliament in 2010 as a Senator for Victoria. He is the current leader of the Australian Greens, taking over the role on 6 May 2015.

Prior to entering parliament, Dr Di Natale was a general practitioner and public health specialist. He worked in Aboriginal health in the Northern Territory, on HIV prevention in India and in the drug and alcohol sector.

Professor Peter Doherty, AC, FRS, FMedSci



Professor Doherty, is an Australian veterinary surgeon and researcher in the field of medicine. He received the Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research in 1995, the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine jointly with Rolf M. Zinkernagel in 1996 for their discovery of how the immune system recognises virus-infected cells.

Professor Doherty graduated from the University of Queensland in Veterinary Science and became a veterinary officer. Moving to Scotland, he received his PhD from the University of Edinburgh Medical School. He is the first person with a veterinary qualification to win a Nobel Prize.

Professor Doherty is also the author of several books, including *A Light History of Hot Air* and *The Beginners Guide to Winning the Nobel Prize*.

He was named Australian of the Year in 1997. In the Australia Day Honours of 1997, he was named a Companion of the Order of Australia for his work with Zinkernagel. He is also a National Trust Australian Living Treasure.

The Climate and Health Alliance

The Climate and Health Alliance was established in August 2010 and is a coalition of health care stakeholders who wish to see the threat to human health from climate change and ecological degradation addressed through prompt policy action. This commitment is based on the understanding that further global warming poses grave risks to human health and biodiversity and if left unchecked, threatens the future of human civilisation.

The membership of CAHA includes organisations and individuals from a broad cross section of the health sector, with 26 organisational members representing health care professionals from medicine, nursing, physiotherapy, social work and psychology, as well as health care service providers, institutions, academics, researchers, and health consumers.