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**From:** CAHA Office [mailto:office@caha.org.au]

**Sent:** Friday, 31 May 2019 10:26 AM

**To:** Hunt, Greg (MP)

**Subject:** The Climate and Health Alliance congratulates you on your re-election to Government

Dear Minister

The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) congratulates you and your Government for being re-elected on Saturday 18 May.

As a coalition of over 30 health and welfare organisations, representing more than 600,000 health professionals, the Climate and Health Alliance wish to work with you to prevent and adapt to the health impacts of climate change.

Health professionals and health industry leaders are increasingly calling for action to address the growing impacts of climate change on the health of the community. Thus, we sought to work with yourself and the Environment Minister during the last Parliament and are interested to do so again. We know that climate change is a growing issue for the health of all Australians and for the economic viability of the health sector and the nation at large.

Extreme weather events, including heatwaves, the spread of vector borne diseases, and an increase in aeroallergens and air pollution will all affect the health and well-being of Australians. As a result, there will be an increased demand on the health sector, as well as interferences to service delivery. To effectively act on these issues, CAHA has developed a *Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being*. This Framework provides all levels of government with the key principles for policy development of adaptation and mitigation strategies. It is also an opportunity for balanced action on climate change that provides economic gains.

You will be aware that health services present an increasing cost burden to the country as the population ages. Extensive evidence shows older people in Australia are the most vulnerable members of our community to the direct and indirect effects of climate change. The Framework, developed with and endorsed by almost 40 health and welfare organisations, provides Government with a roadmap to start addressing this important issue with an apolitical agenda.

We attach a copy of the *Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being* and offer the expertise of this broad network of health professionals and academics to assist Members of Parliament to work towards a plan to address the health impacts of climate change.

The Climate and Health Alliance Health can also provide briefing papers on the effects of climate change on health and briefing papers on the 2018 IPCC and Lancet Countdown reports.

There are many barriers to health professionals acting to improve the quality and safety of health services, to prevent ill health and to improve the economic efficiency of health. Developing initiatives within the health sector that work to make the industry more environmentally sustainable has continuously demonstrated that they also improve cost effectiveness and, more importantly, health outcomes. As the coordinators of the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals program, the Climate and Health Alliance also seek to present you with a proposal for funding to expand this important program that supports practical action in the health sector. This program has grown by 50 percent in the past 12 months, and includes the membership of some of Australia's largest health networks and senior health leaders.

We are seeking a meeting with you and your team to discuss opportunities to move towards a National Strategy on Climate Health and Well-being. Libby Muir from the Melbourne office will contact your office to organise a time for the meeting, alternately we can be contacted on 0476 121 030 or via email at [office@caha.org.au](mailto:office@caha.org.au).

Yours faithfully

Amanda Adrian, President & Fiona Armstrong, Executive Director

Climate and Health Alliance

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**The Hon Greg Hunt MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the**  
**Public Service and Cabinet**

Ref No: MC19-008758

Ms Amanda Adrian  
President  
Climate and Health Alliance  
PO Box 343  
CLIFTON HILL VIC 3068

3 JUL 2019

Dear Ms Adrian

I refer to your letter of 31 May 2019, co-signed by Ms Fiona Armstrong, Executive Director, on behalf of the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) regarding the CAHA's Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being and your proposed extension of the Global Green and Health Hospitals program.

Thank you for your congratulations on the re-election of the Liberal National Government.

I note that Ms Armstrong wrote to me in October 2018 to discuss similar issues. Australia's response to the long-term and acute effects of climate change are managed through its existing health systems at a Federal level. My Department continues to monitor changes in incidence and trends in communicable diseases which includes changes that may occur due to climate change.

Australia is well positioned to meet the challenge of climate change. The Australian Government released its National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy (the Strategy) in 2015. The Strategy recognises that, in Australia, national and subnational governments, businesses, households and communities all have different but important roles in managing climate risks, including those that impact on health and wellbeing. The Strategy sets out that the Government is responsible for the provision of national climate science information and management of climate risks to its own policies, programs and assets.

More information on the Strategy is available on the Department of the Environment and Energy's website at: [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au) under the section Topics.

In line with the Strategy, the Disaster and Climate Resilience Reference Group (the Group) supports collaboration across all Government departments to manage climate risk. Through this Group my Department recently contributed to the development of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (the Framework) which can be found at: [www.homeaffairs.gov.au](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au) under Emergency Management.

This Framework is designed to leverage the work being done across all sectors to reduce disaster risk, and aims to ensure communities are equipped with the right information to respond to a natural hazard. To support the Framework, the Australian Government is investing \$130.5 million over five years from 2019-2020 to deliver disaster risk reduction initiatives at the national, state and local level.

I appreciate the information provided on CAHA's activities. I would be pleased to consider any further information you wish to provide on the Global Green and Health Hospitals Program.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Greg Hunt

cc: Ms Fiona Armstrong  
Executive Director  
Climate and Health Alliance

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