

WA Climate Change Inquiry update – enHealth action item

Title

Chief Health Officer (CHO) Inquiry into the impact of climate change on health in WA.

Date of update

2 December 2019.

Key Dates

The report on the Inquiry is due to be completed and submitted to the Minister for Health (MfH) (Western Australia) by March 2020.

Purpose: For noting.

Background

A key implementation priority of Recommendation 5 of the Sustainable Health Review (for WA Health) is the establishment of an inquiry under the *Public Health Act 2016* (the Act) to review the current planning and response to the health impacts of climate change; and make recommendations for improvement in terms of climate change mitigation and public health adaptation strategies. The Inquiry commenced on 29 April 2019.

Phase 1: Planning and set up.

Phase 2: Public forums and call for public written submissions.

Phase 3: Formal public hearings and targeted stakeholder consultation.

Phase 4: Writing the report, with recommendations.

Current Situation and Key Issues

- Phase 1 has been completed.
- Phase 2: a summary report of the public forums has been completed and published on the inquiry website; 138 written submissions were received and are currently being analysed. Submissions will be made available on the website before the end of the year.
- Phase 3: targeted stakeholder engagement is continuing (Aboriginal, youth, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse groups, disability); formal public hearings commenced on 3 October and will continue until 12 December. Thirty-five organisations and individuals have been asked to present evidence at a formal hearing. The audio and transcripts will be published on the website as they become available - available at: <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Improving-WA-Health/Climate-health-inquiry>
- Phase 4: due to commence in December.

Stakeholders Consulted

A communication plan was developed as part of the Inquiry, and all political parties were offered briefings. Written submissions were received from individuals as well as:

- Health service providers;
- Peak industry bodies;
- Non-government organisations;
- Local, State, National (and International) Government agencies;
- Professional colleges and unions;
- Universities and research institutions; and
- Advocacy groups.

Strategic Risk Assessment

At the MfH's bequest, the CHO has a statutory obligation to ensure the Inquiry is conducted appropriately and a report is produced on the findings and recommendations.

Next Steps

WA can provide further updates to enHealth as the Inquiry progresses.