

Ms Debby Blakey
Chief Executive Officer
HESTA
Locked Bag 5136
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

15/11/2017

Dear Ms Blakey,

Re: Divestment from fossil fuels

The Australian Health Promotion Association Ltd (AHPA®) is the only professional association in Australia specifically for people interested or involved in the practice, policy, research and study of health promotion. Many AHPA® members are also HESTA fund members.

Health promotion focuses on creating healthy social and ecological environments for whole populations, rather than focusing on health at an individual person's level. Given that climate change poses direct risks to health of populations on a global scale, addressing the health impacts from climate change is of concern to AHPA.

AHPA, would like to acknowledge and congratulate HESTA taking steps to address climate change, as outlined in the HESTA Climate Change Policy (July 2017) and the Responsible Investment Policy (June 2017). In these policies, there is some acknowledgement that climate change poses risks to investment and particularly those investments deemed to be 'stranded assets'.

However, AHPA is concerned that although HESTA has stated in the policies that there will be less (not no) investment in 'thermal coal', there is still investment in coal and there is no mention of divestment from other fossil fuels such as oil or gas, that also contribute to the direct impacts of global warming.

In addition to this, the HESTA climate change policy lists some climate change risks: physical risks, carbon risks and market risks. However, there is no explicit acknowledgement of how climate change has direct and indirect effects on health and wellbeing. Given that HESTA is a superannuation fund for health sector professionals, whose concern is to promote and protect health, AHPA considers this to be a significant omission.

AHPA calls on HESTA as matter of urgency to progress from less investment to zero investment in fossil fuels, and zero investment in companies that finance the fossil fuel industry and more investment in clean and renewable energy, sustainable products and innovations and technology that do not harm health.

AHPA call on HESTA to explicitly acknowledge the direct and indirect effects of climate change on health in the HESTA Climate Change Policy and Responsible Investment Policy. If you have any questions or comments about this letter, please contact us via national@healthpromotion.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Paul Klarenaar
Advocacy Lead



Gemma Crawford
President

LETTER PREPARED BY DR JOANNE WALKER AND DR DIMTRI BATRAS