



What can you do as a health professional?

Add your voice to a growing alliance of medical and related healthcare organisations and student groups that have issued statements for urgent and effective action on climate change: AMA, RACP, RACS, WHO, AAP, BMA, The Lancet, BMJ, WMA, AMSA, ANMF, ACN, APS, AHHA, VAHPA, SARRAH, CAHA and more.

Together we can turn the greatest health threat this century into the greatest health opportunity.

Make a pledge today to the following measures, which Doctors for the Environment Australia will deliver to the Australian Prime Minister to ensure that we protect children's health now and into the future.

Take the pledge

I support:

- An urgent, far more proactive, effective and whole of government approach to climate mitigation to ensure significant health benefits for children.
- Strengthening our primary, emergency, rural and mental health services to increasingly be able to respond to children affected by climate change (e.g. during heatwaves).
- Greening our health care systems, in which health professionals are well placed to be a driving force to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and waste.
- Considering divestment as an effective tool for diverting funds away from fossil fuel-related activities which undermine the fundamentals of health, towards healthy cheaper alternatives such as renewable energies.

notimeforgames.dea.org.au

"Failure to take prompt substantive action - given our current knowledge - would be an act of injustice to all children."

American Academy of Pediatrics



Name: _____

Specialisation/
Health Discipline: _____

E-mail: _____

Postcode: _____

With your permission, your name will be listed on our web-site in support of the declaration.

Yes No

To further support this project, we urge all medical students and doctors to join Doctors for the Environment Australia at:

dea.org.au

Please tick this box if you would like to hear more about what we do.

No Time for Games: Protecting Children's Health in a Changing Climate can be found at:

notimeforgames.dea.org.au

Thank you.

NO TIME FOR GAMES

PROTECTING CHILDREN'S HEALTH
IN A CHANGING CLIMATE



"Our children have the most to lose through the impact of climate change on their health, their environment and their future."



Professor Susan Prescott, Paediatrician, University of Western Australia

"Together we can and must tackle climate change for the sake of our children, while there is still time."



Professor Fiona Stanley, child health expert and former Australian of the Year

NO TIME FOR GAMES



"Failure to act responsibly now will have dire consequences for our children's wellbeing and future generations."

Professor Fiona Stanley, child health expert and former Australian of the Year

Health professionals are on the frontline of health care, and have a long history of speaking out on public health issues when medical science is clear.

We have spoken out about tobacco, asbestos and HIV/AIDS. Now it's time to speak out on climate change.

Children are especially vulnerable. They have greater dependency on others, their bodies are more sensitive to temperature extremes and pollution, and they are more susceptible to disease. For example, there is a link between extreme heat and childhood emergency department attendances for diseases such as asthma, fever, gastroenteritis, and electrolyte imbalances.

Medical science tells us that climate change threatens the fundamentals of health (stable eco-systems, clean water & air, food as well as economic & social security) and is already causing disruption, illness and death. Today's CO₂

levels are the highest in over 800,000 years, with the WHO declaring climate change to be the biggest health threat this century.

As temperatures begin to rise for longer periods, the impacts on children's health will become more severe. Beyond 1.5°C global warming the health impacts are likely to become 'catastrophic' for many global societies, and especially for children. Science continues to remind us of the increasing urgency: To avoid warming beyond 1.5°C we must reduce our emissions as rapidly as possible.

Yet, we continue to burn more fossil fuels and in turn burn our children's future.

Australia's emissions continue to climb, making it unlikely that we will meet our commitment to the Paris Agreement. From a medical point of view this is a great injustice to children and future generations who have least contributed to climate change yet will suffer the full consequences.

"The economic health benefits of mitigation strategies far outweigh mitigation costs."

The Lancet

The health benefits of action

The actions we need to take to reduce climate change will not only curb emissions, they will also have a range of health benefits. These include:

- ✓ Replacing fossil fuel based power with clean energy from the sun, wind and waves will help reduce childhood asthma, respiratory disease and allergies.
- ✓ Encouraging a plant based diet with less processed food and meats, will significantly reduce greenhouse gases as well as a range of diet-related illnesses such as childhood obesity.
- ✓ Having fewer cars and improving urban environments with more active transport options will improve air quality and foster healthy, active lifestyles for growing children.
- ✓ Greening our city environments will also reduce the heat built up during hot summer days and heatwaves. This will help protect children who are particularly vulnerable to heat.

The roll-out of these measures can provide financial benefits to the wider community through significant health cost savings.

Currently, air pollution from burning fossil fuels contributes to the premature death of approximately 3000 Australians every year, with a health cost of billions of dollars.

The financial savings generated from averting climate change, could be used to help improve our healthcare and schooling and secure a better future for our children.



"Rural families often have to cope with health and financial problems from weather events like flood, drought, heat and dust. We need to urgently tackle climate change to protect the health and wellbeing of our children."

Dr Amanda Bethell, Rural Practitioner and RACGP GP of the Year 2017

