



Office of the Dean

6 October 2026

Hon Rebecca White MP
Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via email: Rebecca.White.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Assistant Minister

Building a climate resilient healthcare system through hospital electrification

We are pleased that you had the opportunity to meet our Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) Climate Change and Health Working Group member, Dr Arnagretta Hunter, following the launch of Healthy Futures' [All-Electric Hospitals: a Cost Benefit Analysis report](#) in August. The discussions highlighted the need for Australian Government leadership in electrifying public hospitals.

Australian Government investment in public hospital electrification would improve healthcare system climate resilience, reduce emissions, save on hospital energy costs, and reduce climate health impacts. We are calling for Australian Government funding of \$1.5 million for feasibility studies in nine hospitals around Australia to inform design of a wider hospital electrification program that can deliver these benefits.

The RACP trains, educates, and advocates on behalf of over 34,000 Fellows and trainees across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand in a broad range of medical specialties. Beyond the drive for medical excellence, the RACP is committed to developing health policies that bring vital improvements to the wellbeing of patients and the community. As part of this work, we advocate for climate action to protect and promote community health and strengthen healthcare systems. This includes our call for a just, healthy transition to renewable energy as outlined in our 2026 position statement '[A Healthy Future Beyond Fossil Fuels](#)'.

Health system leadership is key to the transition away from fossil fuels. We commend the Australian Government for recognising the importance of climate health policy and action in its National Health and Climate Strategy and National Climate Risk Assessment. Electrifying public hospitals is a crucial step to reducing health system emissions in line with the Government's plans to decarbonise health systems and meet emissions reduction targets.

The Healthy Futures Report estimates reductions in hospital energy costs by \$59 million per year at the completion of a staged public hospital electrification plan. Public hospital electrification offers the Australian healthcare system and the Australian Government an opportunity to:

- build climate resilience through improved energy security
- take proactive adaptation action aligned with planned maintenance and replacement

- reduce healthcare system greenhouse gas emissions in line with existing Government plans
- improve community health through reduced climate impacts on health
- save on hospital energy costs.

The feasibility studies recommended in the Healthy Futures Report are a practical and urgent next step to electrifying public hospitals and gaining the above benefits. The RACP position statement also reinforces the health benefits of transitioning away from fossil fuels. Reducing carbon dioxide and other fossil fuel emissions will slow climate change and its health impacts, including lung and heart disease, transmission of infectious diseases, and mental illness. Reduced health impacts in turn lead to less pressure on health systems.

The RACP joins Healthy Futures in calling for Australian Government funding of \$1.5 million for feasibility studies in nine hospitals around Australia. This will inform design of a wider electrification program. We support taking a systems approach that prioritises continuity of high-quality healthcare service delivery, both to the feasibility studies and subsequent implementation. The All-Electric Healthy Hospitals campaign is supported by numerous health sector organisations, including the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, and the Climate and Health Alliance.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Australian Government to improve community health and build more climate resilient health systems. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Ekta Sharma, Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer, at policy@racp.edu.au.

Yours sincerely



Associate Professor Kudzai Kanhutu
College Dean