17 April 2019

Sal First Name Surname + post-nominal/s

Company

Add1

Add2

Add3

Suburb State Postcode

Via Email:

Dear [insert name],

**Physicians call for urgent action to address health impacts of climate change**

I am writing to you as a [physician/paediatrician] practising in [suburb or electorate]. As doctors, we want to reduce the harm and risks of climate change and improve health outcomes for our patients and communities, and we need you to act now.

The health impacts of climate change are already a critical public health concern. The extent of climate change already occurring from emissions to date is set to cause increasing extreme weather events such as heatwaves, flooding and drought, which will increasingly strain health services infrastructure and personnel. If action is not taken to reduce emissions, the impact of climate change on health and health systems will become more severe.

[consider adding a deidentified story or case study based on your clinical experience]

We urge all levels of government to take immediate steps to mitigate the harm from climate change and harness the opportunity to simultaneously improve health outcomes and the environment. To achieve this, Australia must, at a minimum, reduce its emissions to the levels agreed to in the Paris Accord. It means developing and implementing a national climate change and health strategy that has meaningful targets, effective governance and intergovernmental collaboration, wide-reaching education initiatives and strong research capacity.

Further, we recognise that the health sector itself has a sizeable carbon footprint. We want to see the establishment of a national healthcare sustainable development unit to reduce the carbon footprint of the health sector. The NHS was able to reduce its carbon emissions, while increasing healthcare activity through the work of its Sustainable Development Unit. In Australia, we too need to be working towards an environmentally sustainable healthcare system and reducing carbon and resource use by developing integrated models of care, strengthening primary care and optimising use of new technologies and reducing waste.

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians has published a fact sheet on Future-proofing the Healthcare System and position statements on Climate Change and Health, Environmentally Sustainable Healthcare and The Health Benefits of Mitigating Climate Change ([attached/enclosed]). These documents outline the current and future implications of a rapidly warming planet on health and what needs to be done to reduce further harm to people and the environment.

As a physician, I want to minimise the harm to health that climate change is causing people in [your suburb/electorate] and across Australia and the world, and I want to work within a healthcare system that takes sustainability seriously.

[consider adding a specific ask or issue that is relevant to your local area/hospital – and the MP’s local electorate based on your clinical experience and understanding of the risks for climate change]

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with you in person. I look forward to speaking to a member of your staff soon to organise a convenient meeting time.

Yours sincerely

[Your name]

Encl:

Fact sheet: Future-proofing the healthcare system

Position statements: Climate Change and Health

Environmentally Sustainable Healthcare

The Health Benefits of Mitigating Climate Change