



CLIMATE AND
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

MEDIA RELEASE

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A price on carbon is good for our health

Delegates from the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) will join representatives from the Australian Conservation Foundation, The Climate Project, the Australian Youth Climate Coalition and Union Climate Connectors in a visit to Parliament House today to urge parliamentarians to support a price on carbon.

The delegation will meet with around 50 parliamentarians to convey their support for legislating for a price on carbon and to encourage MPs and Senators to initiate and support action on climate change as essential to the health and wellbeing of all Australians.

CAHA Spokesperson Fiona Armstrong said the Alliance would be encouraging parliamentarians to heed the evidence that climate change poses significant risks to human health, and that actions to reduce emissions can improve, even promote health.¹

“The health effects of climate change are currently being ignored in the debate on climate change and in the development of policy,” Ms Armstrong said.

“Understanding the health implications of climate change is a vital aspect of communicating climate risk.” Ms Armstrong said, “If climate change is presented as a health issue, it is much more likely to be considered an issue of personal significance.”²

“Strong emissions reductions will not only reduce the risks to human health from climate change, but will reduce health care costs and improve health outcomes,” Ms Armstrong said.

CAHA is calling for a national commitment to a comprehensive suite of policies and strategies that will achieve strong emissions reductions to reduce current and future negative health impacts and risks associated with increasing global temperature, sea level rise, and food and water insecurity.

“A price on carbon that reflects the climate and health costs associated with greenhouse gas emissions is an important and necessary part of this,” Ms Armstrong said.

The Climate and Health Alliance was established in August 2010. It is an alliance of health care stakeholders which includes health care professionals from a range of disciplines, health care service providers, institutions, academics, researchers, and health care consumers across Australia who wish to see the risk to human health from climate change addressed through prompt policy action.

For more information contact CAHA spokesperson: Fiona Armstrong on 0438 900 005 or visit: <http://climateandhealthalliance.blogspot.com/>

1 Health and Environment Alliance and Health Care Without Harm Europe, *Acting Now for Better Health*, Report, August 2010.
2 Maibach *et al.* *BMC Public Health* 2010, 10:299.