Public health professionals support student strike action

The Public Health Association of Australia supports this week’s School Strike 4 Climate and the demands the strikers are making, calling for all politicians to ensure that Australia reaches net zero emissions by no later than 2030, by:

1. No new coal, oil and gas projects, including the Adani mine,
2. 100% renewable energy generation and exports by 2030, and
3. Funding a fair transition and job creation for fossil-fuel industry workers and communities.

The climate crisis is a public health issue, one that touches on every aspect of our lives.

Members of the PHAA, Australia’s pre-eminent public health organisation, include researchers, clinicians and health advocates.

The PHAA supports staff and members to attend a strike event near them to strengthen the call for the parliamentarians to take meaningful and immediate action to reduce Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions.

“Once again, we show solidarity and hope with students as they hit the streets this Friday September 20. They must be given the best chance to inherit a planet and continent that is liveable,” said CEO Terry Slevin.

“We are already seeing changes in rain and heat that mean our capacity to grow food will be reduced. Livelihoods and lives are already at being disrupted as predicted, with significant risks to population health.”

“Delaying action will only make it worse,” Mr Slevin said.

“The climate crisis demands a comprehensive all-of-government public health response - not one that waits for more bushfires and floods but is pre-emptive, proactive and bipartisan,” said Dr Peter Tait, Ecology and Environment Special Interest Group co-convenor.

“That plan would prepare people wherever they live cope with the changing climate.”

“It is depressing that Australia lags behind most similar countries on climate change and is a spoiler in international negotiations to ratchet up action. But it is also a source of hope and opportunity.”

“By making relatively modest changes, which also makes good economic sense, Australia has the potential to alter the global politics of climate change,” Dr Tait said.

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Further information/comment:

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