Call for national leadership and fire emergency planning

“The public health community strongly supports the joint statement today from professional health and medical organisations regarding the health impacts of the NSW air pollution,” declared Public Health Association of Australia President David Templeman today.

“The public health community recognises that the global warming which has occurred over the past few decades has contributed to our ongoing fire emergency,” said Mr Templeman.

“Government inaction on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions has led to more extreme weather, increased bushfire frequency and severity, and more common and harsher drought conditions.”

“Together these conditions are severely affecting human health and wellbeing.”

“PHAA joins the call for Prime Minister Scott Morrison and the NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian to show leadership – and take rapid action – to manage the public health emergency and the health threats caused by fires and smoke.”

“We call for Prime Minister Scott Morrison to lead a National Summit and create a National Plan to minimise health risks into the future.”

“Such a National Plan must include a multi-portfolio response involving federal and state governments, including the development of a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being.”

“Governments need to move rapidly to put in place a nationally coordinated approach to tackling the worsening health impacts of climate disruption.”

“Health service planning must now acknowledge the obvious fact of climate change.”

“Governments must show a much stronger readiness to respond to the increasing demand for health services from extreme weather events, including bushfires and heatwaves.”

“The most important prevention strategies of all are for our political leaders to commit to urgent greenhouse gas emission reductions in line with what the science demands.”

“Governments need to prepare our communities for inevitable economic and social consequences from global warming and climate disruption.”

“The urgently needed National Plan should address forest and grassland management practices, emergency management funding and training for all professionals (career and volunteer), building design regulations, zoning regulations, and other factors that will help to reduce the risks from future warming and climate disruption.”

ENDS

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