



Climate and Health Expert Advisory Group

Communique of outcomes from meeting held on 12 December 2025

16 January 2026

Overview

The third meeting of the Australian Government's Climate and Health Expert Advisory Group (CHEAG) was held on 12 December 2025. The meeting was chaired by the Hon Rebecca White MP, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health and Assistant Minister for Women.

CHEAG was established to support the implementation of the National Health and Climate Strategy (the Strategy) by providing expert climate and health advice to the Australian Government.

At the meeting:

1. The new Chair acknowledged the leadership of the Hon Ged Kearney MP, former Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care and previous chair of CHEAG.
2. Members received an update on implementation of the Strategy. Significant progress has been made, with 19 of the 49 actions now 'complete' or 'substantially complete'.
3. Ms Mary Wood, Head of the interim Australian Centre for Disease Control (iCDC), provided members with an update on the transition to an independent Australian CDC from 1 January 2026. This includes work by the Australian CDC to bring together information, data and advice from across the country.
4. Conjoint Professor Carolyn Hullick, Chief Medical Officer of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, provided an update on initiatives by the Commission, including the Healthcare Sustainability and Resilience Module, and the incorporation of sustainability in the:
 - new national clinical governance model
 - new Clinical Care Standards
 - 3rd edition of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards
 - Framework for Collaborative Action on Climate and Health (including 26 health profession colleges).
5. Dr Dawn Casey PSM, Deputy CEO of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), outlined a process for co-designing First Nations health and climate policy between the Australian Government and First Nations stakeholders.
6. Members received an update on the work to bring a health focus to COP31 through the joint hosting agreement between Türkiye and Australia.

Members

Member	Title
The Hon Rebecca White MP (Chair)	Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Assistant Minister for Women
Ms Mary Wood (Deputy Chair)	Head, Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control
Professor Lynne Madden	Chair, Multi-College Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Health
Professor Jennifer Martin	President, Royal Australasian College of Physicians
Professor Tarun Weeramanthri	Immediate Past President, Public Health Association Australia
Dr Catherine Pendrey	Immediate Past Chair, Climate and Environmental Medicine Special Interest Group, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Ms Elizabeth de Somer	Chief Executive Officer, Medicines Australia
TBA	Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Health Australia
Dr Kate Wylie	Chief Executive Officer, Doctors for the Environment Australia
Ms Michelle Isles	Chief Executive Officer, Climate and Health Alliance
Professor Eugenie Kayak	Enterprise Professor of Sustainable Healthcare, University of Melbourne
Professor Kathryn Bowen	Deputy Director, Melbourne Climate Futures
Professor Sotiris Vardoulakis	Director, Healthy Environments and Lives Network
Associate Professor Angie Bone	Associate Professor of Practice in Planetary Health, Monash Sustainable Development Institute
Professor Hilary Bambrick	Director, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University
Professor Alexandra Barratt	Professor of Public Health, University of Sydney
Associate Professor Steve Morris	Chief Executive Officer, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
Mr Paul Stewart	Chief Executive Officer, The Lowitja Institute
Associate Professor Veronica Matthew	Associate Professor, Centre for Rural Health at the University of Sydney
Mr Tom Symondson	Chief Executive Officer, Aged & Community Care Providers Association

Ms Raener Miller	Vice-President External, Australian Medical Students' Association
Ms Roslyn Morgan	Environmental Health Officer, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
Professor Tracy Levett-Jones	Distinguished Professor of Nursing & Midwifery, University of Technology Sydney
Associate Professor Carolyn Hullick	Chief Medical Officer, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
Professor Nick Watts	Director, Centre for Sustainable Medicine, National University of Singapore
Ms Kate Miranda	Chief Executive Officer, Asthma Australia
Mr Ian Burgess	Chief Executive Officer, Medical Technology Association of Australia

Contact

For further information, please contact the Climate and Health Secretariat at ClimateHealth.Secretariat@cdc.gov.au.