

Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum 2022 Summary Report



About the Forum

The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA), in partnership with leading healthcare stakeholders, have run annual events focusing on environmentally sustainable healthcare since 2012 (excluding 2020).

In 2022, CAHA partnered with Hunter New England Local Health District to bring the 11th annual Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum to Awabakal country (Newcastle) for the first time. The event took place at the Hunter Medical Research Institute and was also fully available online.

After a challenging two years of pandemic and natural disasters, this Forum inspired healthcare providers to make positive changes towards a more sustainable healthcare system.

The Forum featured current research and policy to support the transition to net zero carbon and environmentally sustainable healthcare, and showcased practical examples of sustainable healthcare in action.

The 2022 Forum theme was 'Driving systems change for sustainable healthcare'. Program sessions were entitled:

- **Where are we at?** Gathering the evidence
- **What can we do?** Sustainable healthcare and circular economy solutions in practice
- **What is the big picture?** Policy for sustainable healthcare

The Forum provided an opportunity for connection, knowledge sharing, learning, and upskilling, all while showcasing outstanding examples of sustainable healthcare in action.

Attendees

CAHA aimed to ensure the Forum was relevant for a wide range of people working in or connected with the health sector in Australia.

The Forum brought together health and aged care sustainability champions, leadership and executive, government representatives, students, researchers and suppliers from across Australia and New Zealand. Together, attendees explored the big issues and solutions to fostering a healthy, sustainable future for people and the planet.

A total of 354 people registered, including:

- 120 attendees in person
- 9 group viewings (included >34 attendees)
- 225 attendees online

A total of 40 expert speakers and facilitators took part in the Forum. Session recordings and slides were provided to all registrants, speakers and facilitators. The recordings were available for purchase for those who requested for 6 weeks following the Forum, after which it was made freely accessible. All abstracts were collated in a [Forum Attendee Booklet](#).

Exhibiting and networking spaces

Exhibiting and networking spaces were provided both at the venue and online via the [Virtual Event Hub](#). From these spaces attendees could view eight posters, visit sponsor stands and engage with sustainable healthcare colleagues.

For online attendees, a virtual networking session was held on Zoom during the lunch break. Attendees were assigned into breakout rooms and given the chance to meet two other online attendees and chat for five minutes before being rotated into a new breakout room.

Environmental sustainability at the Forum

To minimise the environmental footprint of the Forum:

- Attendees could join online instead of travelling to the venue
- Attendees were provided with information about how to reach the venue via active and public transport
- Carbon emissions associated with the Forum (approximately 15 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) were offset using Greenfleet
- Vegetarian/vegan catering was provided
- Compostable and bamboo service ware was provided
- Attendees were encouraged to BYO reusable water bottles and coffee cups
- Tickets and Forum program were all available electronically for attendees

Presenters and facilitators were gifted an assortment of products from Bush Balm Social Enterprise, run by Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Member [Purple House](#). Purple House is an innovative Indigenous-owned and operated health service based in Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. This dynamic social enterprise provides employment opportunities for patients and their families, and no cost bush medicine for Purple House patients year round.

Program

Program

Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum

Friday 7th October 2022
Hunter Medical Research Institute, Newcastle + Online

Driving systems change for sustainable healthcare

Welcome and Opening		
9:00	Welcome to Country and Smoking ceremony	Aunty Cheryl Smith and Uncle Ray, Tyrn Mundine
9:20	Introductions	Dr. Ramsey Awad , Hunter New England Local Health District
9:25	Welcome address	Michael Di Rienzo , Hunter New England Local Health District
9:30	Minister's address	The Hon. Mark Butler, MP , Minister for Health and Aged Care
9:40	Keynote address: Systems lessons learnt to deliver sustainable healthcare	Sonia Roschnik , Geneva Sustainability Centre, International Hospital Federation Dr. David Pencheon , University of Exeter
10:00	Reflections on keynote address	Dr. Tony Capon , Monash Sustainable Development Institute Dr Angie Bone , Monash Sustainable Development Institute / Victorian Department of Health
10:10 - 10:40 BREAK - Morning tea		
Session 1: Where are we at? Gathering the evidence		
10:45	Co-major sponsor presentation	Multiplex
10:55	Introduction	Elissa Klinkenberg , Hunter New England Local Health District
11:00	Net Zero 2030 Pathway for Hunter New England Health: tools used and lessons learned	Nick Palousis , 2XE
11:10	Determining Mercy Health's full Carbon Inventory & Net Zero Pathway	Sharon Desmond , Mercy Health
11:20	Sydney Children's Hospitals Network - Delivering Sustainable Health Care	Dr. Felicity Wright , Sydney Children's Hospitals Network
11:30	Quantifying scope 3 emissions and how to engage suppliers to deliver emissions reductions	Rick Lomax , Beca Dr. Anumitra Mirti , Beca
11:40	Local food procurement by hospitals: results from a scoping review and food origin audit	Kathy Faulkner , Monash University/ Royal Childrens Hospital
11:50	Panel Q&A	Session 1 speakers, facilitated by Elissa Klinkenberg
12:05 - 12:55 BREAK - Lunch		

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Session 2: What can we do? Sustainable healthcare and circular economy solutions in practice		
1:00	Co-major sponsor presentation	David Crowley, Mott McDonald
1:10	Introduction	Annie Jiang, Go circular
1:15	Caring for Country and Sustainability: The Possibilities for Integrating Caring for Country into Sustainable Development	Dr. Stacey McMullen, The University of Newcastle
	Embedding Aboriginal knowledge into new builds	Sheryn Barrack, John Hunter Hospital
1:30	Streamlining reuse and donation of assets	Wendy Hird, South Western Sydney Local Health District
1:40	St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital and CircMed: Healthcare Plastics Recycling and Circularity Ecosystem	Susan Farlow, St Andrews War Memorial Hospital, Uniting Care Danielle Munro, CircMed
1:50	Renal Unit Reverse Osmosis Reject Water Reuse Project	Yvonne Patrick, Tamworth Hospital
2:00	An overview of HealthShare NSW's environmental sustainability work	Jaymie Ling, HealthShare NSW
	eWater - a new, sustainable and safe way to clean and sanitise hospital kitchens.	Dawn O'Neil AM, eWater Systems
	Project CHEF: Reducing food waste and delivering sustainable food services for NSW Health	Melanie Frost, HealthShare NSW
2:15	Developing a strategy and policy tool to incorporate environmental impact into procurement systems review	Dr. Alex Buller, The Eye Surgery Hastings
2:25	Panel Q&A	Session 2 speakers, facilitated by Annie Jiang
2:40 - 3:10 BREAK - Afternoon tea		
Session 3: What is the big picture? Policy for sustainable healthcare		
3:15	Introduction	Professor Nick Talley, University of Newcastle
3:20	How to drive sustainability in a large health organisation	Dr. Ramsey Awad, Hunter New England, Local Health District
3:30	Climate Risk Ready	Tiffany Correggia, Office of Energy and Climate Change, NSW Treasury Ingrid Segovia, Health Infrastructure Susan Crosbie, Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District
3:40	NSW Health - Climate Risk & Net Zero Unit	Erynn Johnson, NSW Ministry of Health
3:55	Embedding Environmental Sustainability at NBMLHD	Susan Crosbie, Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District
4:05	Healthy patients, workforce and environment: coupling climate adaptation and mitigation to wellbeing in healthcare	Dr. Mark de Souza, NT Health Aunty Bilawara Lee, Senior Larrakia Elder Stephen Cook, CSIRO
4:15	Lessons from Climate health inquiry in WA	Dr. Tarun Weeramanthri, PHAA
4:25	Panel Q&A	Session 3 speakers, facilitated by Professor Nick Talley
4:40 Caring for Country Showcase		
Closing		
4:50	Closing remarks	Professor Jennifer Martin, University of Newcastle/John Hunter Hospital
5:00	Thank you and close	Roland Sapsford, CAHA

Program may be subject to change

7 October 2022 | Program

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Attendee feedback

A total of 29 responses were received, 8% response rate. The survey was promoted at the end of the Forum and kept open for one month post-Forum.

69% (n=20) responded that they were overall very satisfied and 31% (n=9) satisfied with the Forum.

Participants reported satisfaction with the following aspects of the forum:



The key areas which respondents reported they liked most about the Forum included:

- Hybrid format
- Variety of speakers and topics and practical examples
- Embedding Indigenous knowledge throughout the Forum
- Good insights on new technologies
- Slido worked well for collecting questions
- Topics ranged from the strategic to the local and practical
- Conversational keynote style was received well
- Online networking opportunity via Zoom
- Online facilitation in the chat

The key areas which respondents reported could be improved about the Forum included:

- Less presentations, longer duration
- Local hubs in each state could be coordinated – this would help with local networking without the carbon cost of travel
- Interaction workshops to participate in rather than just listening
- Ensuring more voices across both New Zealand and Australia

An action which respondents reported they will take following the Forum included:

- More thinking regarding their organisation's governance / leadership / links with risk and adaptation
- Present their learnings to colleagues
- Initiate projects within their workplace
- Follow up with fellow attendees and presenters
- Explore ways to embed some equipment and new technologies
- Collate ideas as a resource for future projects
- Encourage colleagues to attend next year

The key lessons reported by respondents have been grouped into themes as below:

Approach to driving change / motivation

- Cast the net broad. Don't wait. Don't focus on perfection.
- Start somewhere and start small – just start
- Greening healthcare is not as difficult as I first thought
- That we can all make small changes. Need to do your research when putting together a business case.
- Keep going – don't worry about knowing the steps, just get out on the dance floor! Everyone is at a different stage with sustainability and some have more support, but starting where you are with what you have is enough.
- Validation that it is worthwhile being a "champion" and spreading the word to colleagues.
- Be bold. Be curious. Don't give up when it gets hard.

Collaboration and responsibility

- Wonderful actions being taken at multiple levels BUT a lot more needs to happen quickly and needs collaboration between the top and bottom levels of the health system and broader governmental/industrial innovation and actual change. By the same token every bit helps!
- It's everyone's responsibility, changes do not have to be expensive, know your sphere of influence, start small and build on wins and reinvest in further opportunities
- Individuals and groups can be a change driver.
- Passionate clinicians only go so far – you need system levers and power to create change

Understanding of the landscape of sustainable healthcare work

- Lots of other exciting initiatives happening in hospitals
- My favourite presentations include: lessons from climate health inquiry in WA, healthy patients, workforce and environment: coupling climate adaptation and mitigation to wellbeing in healthcare and developing a strategy and policy tool to incorporate environmental impact into procurement systems review.
- Things are moving quickly, a lot of people are working on the big picture as well as specific examples
- There is lots of innovation in this space, we just need to share ideas to leverage it.
- Net zero pathways are no longer solely abstract/theoretical – there are healthcare organisations that are already measuring and starting to address scope 3 emissions.

Caring for Country

- I also deeply appreciated the respect and inclusion that CAHA paid to our First Nations people. There were some really lovely presentations. I loved the NT green spaces presentation and that awesome video about the young artist who was blown away when his artwork was featured across a hospital precinct. So good!

Data

- Structured approaches to planning and implementing sustainability policies within health care services. Ideas about data and metrics that are proving helpful to give visibility to the challenge and the progress being made. Some great examples of partnership with first nations people on the sustainability challenge.
- Data is key, but it doesn't need to be perfect
- Importance of data for moving to net zero in other LHDs; Set bold targets to get traction and a driver for change in the organisation; small steps ok, start moving in the right direction.
- External providers are often required for carbon accounting

Positive quotes from attendees:

“Such a variety of presentations about positive projects that are making a difference. Everything from the strategic to the local & practical. Great speakers. Lots of valuable resources. Also the strong profile and respect for First Nations peoples & insights. Sincere thanks for such a valuable day.”

“The keynote speaker and all who presented were so very informative and wonderful initiatives have been introduced – loved eWater Systems, Streamlining reuse and donation assets, Plastics recycling and circularity ecosystem, Renal Unit Reverse Osmosis Reject Water Reuse, Developing a strategy and policy tool to incorporate environmental impact into procurement system review”

“The breadth of talented and passionate people working in the sustainability space who were willing to share their experiences”

“Brilliant event. Congratulations. CAHA does an impressive job in bringing people together and sharing learnings.”

“I always come away uplifted and inspired by the Forum. There is always so much to learn from listening to our colleagues. It's important to make connections and share our experiences in this way and informally.”

Forum exposure

Croakey Conference News Service was engaged to cover live Tweeting of the Forum as well as to prepare a [pre conference article](#). The hashtag #GreenHealthForum22 was used.

Recordings available [here](#). Slides available [here](#).

Promotional partners



Forum organisers



Climate and Health Alliance and GGHH Pacific region

CAHA's mission is to build a powerful health sector movement for climate action and sustainable healthcare. CAHA coordinates the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) Network in the Pacific region (Australia and New Zealand). GGHH supports health institutions to reduce their environmental footprint and develop climate resilience to protect and promote public and environmental Health.



Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District

Hunter New England Health

Hunter New England Health provides a range of public health services to the Hunter, New England and Lower Mid North Coast regions. Hunter New England Local Health District will be carbon and waste neutral by 2030. Under the ambitious new initiative, Sustainable Healthcare: Together Towards Zero, we are setting our sights on an environmentally sustainable future.



The forum was hosted at Hunter New England Medical Research Institute.

Forum sponsors

We are grateful for the support of our forum sponsors.

Major sponsors

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a powerful health sector
movement for climate action.**

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