

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **NHAA Joins Health Chorus For Urgent Climate Action Following IPCC Report**

The Naturopaths and Herbalists Association of Australia (NHAA) has joined a chorus of health professionals from around the world, calling for urgent climate action following the latest report from the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The [IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report \(AR6\)](#) is focused on the interdependence of climate, ecosystems and human society, and highlights how the climate crisis poses a significant risk to planetary and human health and wellbeing. If we act now however, we can reduce the impact. protect health and secure a liveable and sustainable future.

"Climate change is happening now; we only need to look to our communities and see the destruction of the recent floods to know we are experiencing the impact of a warming planet". NHAA president David Casteleijn said.

The IPCC is clear in its assessment that the window for action is closing and is urging policymakers to pay attention to the landmark report, and to use it to guide decision-making. As described by UN secretary general, António Guterres, the report is "an atlas of human suffering and a damning indictment of failed climate leadership". It provides evidence that urgent, concerted and committed action to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions is now the critical step to prevent the worst impact of climate change.

The AR6 report outlines multiple climate-related health impacts for people in Australia:

- in Australia, there will be 20-70% more days over 35°C by 2030, putting people at risk of heat-related illnesses;
- in Australian cities, excess heat-related deaths could quadruple in 2031-2080 compared with 1971-2020;
- heatwaves are almost twice as likely in Australia if the temperature rise reaches 2.0°C compared to 1.5°C;
- Australia's "1-in-100 year floods" could occur several times a year;
- the dependence of regional Australia on an 'overstretched' volunteer base to respond to disasters makes it extremely vulnerable; and
- climate change will exacerbate the health inequities already faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The NHAA, as a member of the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA), has joined others in the Australian health sector in calling for a national plan on climate and health, and substantial cuts in national emissions by 2030.