HEAL 2026
Conference Program

Time to *Listen, Learn* and *Act* for Lasting Impact on Healthy Environments and Lives

Welcome to HEAL 2026

This interactive PDF guides you through the four-day HEAL 2026 Conference, with program schedules, regional hub sessions, plenary speakers and thematic sessions to help you navigate the conference.

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HEAL 2026 Program Overview

Day 1 – Regional HUB Sessions MON 2 NOV	**Day 2 – Global South** TUE 3 NOV	**Day 3 – Plenary Sessions** WED 4 NOV	**Day 4 – Plenary Sessions** THU 5 NOV
Various sessions across Australia In-person & online, regional HUB Events. Go to **Regional Hub Sessions**	**12:00pm** AEDT Welcome & Opening	**12:00pm** AEDT Welcome & Opening **Opening**: Assistant Minister Rebecca White **Opening**: Hon Bill Shorten University of Canberra Vice-Chancellor	**12:00pm** AEDT Welcome & Opening
	12:15pm AEDT Session 1: Wildfire, Smoke and Health: Protecting Communities in a Changing Climate	**12:40pm** AEDT Session 1: Indigenous Knowledges for Climate and Health	**12:30pm** AEDT Session 1: Climate and health adaptation in practice, from the national to the local
	1:15pm AEDT Session 2: Keynote Presentations	**1:40pm** AEDT Session 2: National Healthy Air Strategy	**1:30pm** AEDT Session 2: El-Nino and its impact on the environment and lives
		2:40pm AEDT Break & E-Posters Viewing	**2:30pm** AEDT Break & E-Posters Viewing
		3:00pm AEDT **Thematic breakout sessions**	**2:45pm** AEDT **Thematic breakout sessions**
	1:45pm AEDT Session 3: Heat, Air and Adaptation: Community-led Responses Across the Global South and Australia	**4:30pm** AEDT Session 3: Powering Health: Clean Energy and Climate Solutions for a Healthy Future	**4:15pm** AEDT Closing Ceremony & Conference Awards

Day 1 Schedule – Regional Hub Sessions **2 Nov**

ACT
Date: Mon, 2 Nov 2026
Time: **9:30am-1:00pm** AEDT
Location: Ainslie Arts Centre, Braddon

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VIC
Date: Fri, 27 Oct 2026
Time: **12:00pm-5:00pm** AEDT
Location: Multiple venues

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WA
Date: Thur, 29 Oct 2026
Time: **9:00am-10:30am** AWST
Location: Online (Teams)

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NT
Date: Mon, 2 Nov 2026
Time: **1:00pm-2:30pm** ACST
Location: Online (teams)

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NSW
Date: Tue, 3 Nov 2026
Time: **10:00am-3:00pm** AEDT
Location: Medical Foundation Building, University of Sydney

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QLD
Date: Mon, 2 Nov 2026
Time: **11:20am-4:30pm** AEST
Location: Griffith University and Online

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TAS
Date: 20-22 Oct 2026
Time: Various times
Location: Online and in-person (Hobart)

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SA
Date: Mon, 2 Nov 2026
Time: **9:00am-12:30pm** ACDT
Location: Adelaide University

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HEAL ACT Regional Hub Session

DATE	Monday 2nd November 2026
TIME	9:30am – 2:00pm AEDT
LOCATION	Ainslie Arts Centre, Braddon ACT, Australia
DELIVERY	In-person
CONVENOR	**A/Prof Ro McFarlane**, University of Canberra
DESCRIPTION	As part of the 6th International HEAL 2026 Conference, the HEAL ACT Community of Practice will hold its annual in-person meeting. The meeting will focus on consolidating HEALs achievements and learnings from the last 5 years and identifying priorities for the future, as well as exploring opportunities to progress health outcomes under the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2026–2036 and its first Action Plan. The meeting will bring together around 50 stakeholders from the ACT, including researchers, ACT Government representatives, health and emergency services, community organisations, Indigenous leaders, young people and representatives from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Discussions will explore leadership, innovation and resilience, including the role of research, policy, community knowledge and collaboration in building healthy and sustainable futures for Canberra. The annual regional meetings provide an opportunity for HEAL Community of Practice members, researchers, policymakers, practitioners and community representatives to connect, exchange ideas and share diverse perspectives. By strengthening relationships across research, policy and community, these meetings help build a foundation for collaborative, community-informed research and action that supports healthier, more sustainable futures.

HEAL ACT Regional Hub Session *Agenda*

Time (AEDT)	Activity
9:00am – 9:30am	Arrival and registration
9:30am – 10:10am	Opening session • Chair – **A/Prof Ro McFarlane, University of Canberra** • Welcome to Country – **Mr Stephen Mudford, ACT Climate Change Council** • **Opening address – Mr Andrew Braddock MLA, Deputy Leader ACT Greens** • Directors address - **Prof Sotiris Vardoulakis, Director, HEAL National Research Network and HRI, University of Canberra**
10:10am – 10:30am	Morning Tea and Networking
10:30am – 11:30am	**Listen**: Diverse Perspectives on Healthy Futures • **Mr Chris Finnigan -** A/g Director, Adaptation and Resilience Policy Climate Change and Energy Policy Branch • **Ms Megan Taylor** – Project Coordinator Disaster Recovery Mental Health and Wellbeing, Resilience Preparedness, Canberra Health Services • **Mr Ravi Krishnamurty** – President, Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN) | Deputy Chair, Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF) • **Ms Mijica Lus** - Branch President, UN Young Professional Association
11:30am – 12:15pm	**Learn**: Leadership, Innovation and Resilience – What have we learned and what (or who) is missing? Panel discussion with: • **Mr Stephen Mudford** - Indigenous Perspective • **Ms Mijica Lus** - Youth Perspective • **Mr Ravi Krishnamurty** - CALD/Community Perspective • **Ms Megan Taylor** - Emergency Service Perspective- • **Mr Chris Finnigan** - ACT Government climate change policy perspective
12:15pm – 12:50pm	**Act**: From learning to action – Priorities for a healthy and climate resilient ACT Round table discussion with all attendees • Learning from experience • Gaps and innovations • Leadership and resilience
12.50pm – 2:00pm	Closing remarks – Dr Syeda Hira Fatima Lunch provided
2:00pm	Meeting End

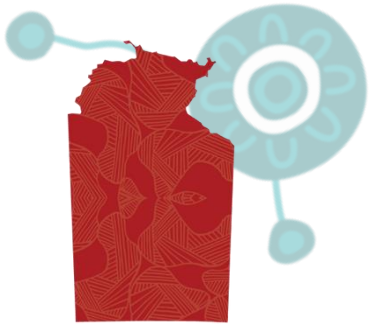
HEAL NSW Regional Hub Session

DATE	Tuesday 3rd November 2026
TIME	10:00am – 4:30pm AEDT
LOCATION	Medical Foundation Building, University of Sydney 92 Paramatta Road, Camperdown, NSW 2050 K25.GR.G60 – (MFB) Auditorium G60
DELIVERY	**Part 1 – Hybrid, in person AND online**: 10am to 12pm AEST **Part 2 – Part 2 – In person networking and meeting room big screen link to HEAL 2026 Conference session – Global South (virtual):** 12pm – 4:30pm AEST
CONVENOR	**A/Prof Veronica Matthews** & **Prof Geoff Morgan**, University of Sydney
DESCRIPTION	Interactive workshop bringing bring together researchers, policymakers and practitioners to strengthen cross-sector collaboration among NSW based stakeholders to address complex environment and health challenges (Part 1) **Part 1: Strengthening Collaboration for Lasting Impact in Environment and Health (1.5 hours)** The session aims to improve our understanding of effective environmental health collaboration in practice, factors that support long- term partnership success, and opportunities for collective action to maximise impact for healthy environments and healthy lives. The session includes an update and discussion of the HEAL NSW Hub funded Network Analysis Project – a network analysis of NSW HEAL members describing the breadth and nature of existing connections across stakeholders and sectors, alongside findings from a scoping review of successful multi-sectoral collaborations in environment and health. The session will also showcase lessons from climate and health projects in NSW and beyond. Facilitated discussions will explore practical strategies to strengthen, sustain and grow collaborative networks beyond the current NHMRC HEAL Network funding period. **Part 2: In person networking and meeting room big screen link to HEAL 2026 Conference session – Global South (virtual).** In person attendees are invited to stay at the meeting room for the afternoon and watch the first session of the 2026 HEAL Conference (virtual) on the Global South – meeting room available until 4:30pm. Lunch and afternoon tea provided. See 2026 HEAL Conference session program at: https://healnetwork.vfairs.com/en/#agenda

HEAL NSW Regional Hub Session *Agenda*

Time (AEDT)	Activity
9:30am – 10:00am	Coffee/Tea
10:00am – 10:10am	Open Session
	Acknowledgement of Country Welcome & Overview of Session – A/Prof Veronica Matthews & Prof Geoff Morgan, University of Sydney
10:10am – Midday	Multisector Collaborations in Environment and Health
10:10am – 10:40am	**Climate, Health and Healing: Research to action in Aotearoa** Prof Alex MacMillan, Climate Health Aotearoa, Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka, University of Otago
10:40am – 11:40am	**HEAL NSW Network Analysis & Multi-sector Collaboration Scoping Review** Dr Erin Mathieu, Ms Leslie Valencia & Dr Luise Kazda, Sydney School of Public Health, University of Sydney
11:40am – 12:00pm	**General HEAL NSW Hub Discussion**
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm – 3:30pm	Online link to HEAL 2026 Conference session – Global South (virtual) See HEAL 2026 Conference program at: https://healnetwork.vfairs.com/en/#agenda
3:30pm	Session End

HEAL NT Regional Hub Session



DATE	Monday 2nd November 2026
TIME	1:00pm – 2:30pm ACST
LOCATION	Online
DELIVERY	Teams Register for the event
CONVENORS	A/Prof Supriya Mathew, Menzies School of Health Research & Prof Linda Ford, Charles Darwin University
DESCRIPTION	Join us for the NT CoP Regional Hub Session to engage with key topics and innovations in health, climate, and environmental challenges faced both in NT and the broader Australia. This event will be held as part of the HEAL 2026 Conference, themed "**Time to Listen, Learn and Act for Lasting Impact on Healthy Environments and Lives**"

HEAL NT Regional Hub Session *Agenda*

Time (ACST)	Activity
1:00pm – 1:10pm	Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country
1:10pm	Invited Talks
1:10 PM - 1:25 PM	**Mr Jack McLean** and **Ms Susannah Wells** Climate-Safe Housing in Papunya: Legal Perspectives (10min) Q&A (5min)
1:25 PM - 1:40 PM	**Ms Beatriz Cadona** Community-Driven Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Hazards in Timor-Leste (10min) Q&A (5min)
1:40 PM - 1:55 PM	**Ms Jacqueline Arnold** and **Ms Camille Pengarte Dobson** Impacts of the Pastoral Industry on Health in Central Australia: Buffel Grass as a Case Study Q&A (5min)
1:55pm – 2:10pm	Additional speaker to be announced Q&A (5min)
2:10pm – 2:25pm	Additional speaker to be announced Q&A (5min)
2:25pm – 2:30pm	NT CoP Thank You and Session Close

HEAL QLD Regional Hub Session

DATE	Monday, November 2nd, 2026
TIME	11:20am - 4:30pm (AEST)
LOCATION	**In-person** Building S07 Room 1.23 Griffith University, Southbank Campus
DELIVERY	Online
CONVENOR	**Professor Cordia Chu** and **Dr Paul Barnes** Centre for Environment and Population Health School of Medicine and Dentistry Griffith University
THEME	Climate Change, Disaster Management & One Health (From Challenges to Action)
DESCRIPTION	Bringing together experts, practitioners and emerging researchers, this symposium explores contemporary challenges and opportunities through a One Health lens. The program connects human, animal, plant and environmental health, with a focus on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, emergency preparedness and management, vulnerable populations, plant health, and regional health security. Featuring expert presentations, a next-generation HDR candidate panel and an interactive discussion on regional One Health challenges and opportunities, the symposium provides a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue, knowledge exchange and collaboration.

HEAL QLD Regional Hub Session *Agenda (1/2)*

Time (AEST)	Activity
11:20am-16:30pm	Welcome – Prof Cordia Chu Acknowledgement of Country
	Griffith University Welcome - Professor Lee Smith Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) - Griffith University
11:30am-12:45pm	One Health & Emerging and Re-emerging infectious diseases (Global health challenges and action) Overview: Prof Cordia Chu
	Prof Cordia Chu, Centre for Environment & Population Health - Griffith University (CEPH) One Health International Development: From Concept to Collaboration and Action (Global) **Dr Tuan Pham**, CEPH - Griffith University From Climate-Informed Dengue Early Warning to Action: Co-Creating a Digital Decision-Support Tool in Vietnam. **Reza Hasan**, CEPH - Griffith University & ICDDR,B – Bangladesh Making One Health Work for Dengue Prevention and Control: Stakeholder Perspectives from Bangladesh **Ha Thu Nguyen**, CEPH - Griffith University A Needs Analysis to Help Develop and Implement a Climate-informed Early Warning System for Dengue Prevention and Control in Vietnam: Stakeholder Mapping and Their Expectations **Dr Festus Adams**, Policy and Research Associate - Institute for Global Health and Development International Cooperation for One Health: Lessons from Ghana's COVID-19 Response for Global Health Security **Panel Discussion with Q & A**
12:45pm	Plant Heath & One Health (Biosecurity Qld)
	Moderator: Dr Paul Barnes (CEPH, Griffith University) **Michael Reid**, General Manager, Plant Biosecurity [QDPI] & Chief Plant Health Manager - Biosecurity Qld *"Plant Health, One Health: What shall we do?"* **Vignettes** **Kataja Ehler** – Redefining biosecurity as a collective action issue **Luciana Arcidiacono**, (Policy Manager) Collective action in practice: Panama TR4 **Dr Cody-Ellen Murray**, (Principal Policy Adviser) *"Humanising Varroa Mite Management: Supporting People Through Uncertainty"* **Panel Discussion**
1:45pm	Emergency Management: Planning Tools, vulnerable populations and hospital management
	Moderator: Dr Febi Dwirahmadi (School of Medicine and Dentistry, Griffith University) **Dr Paul Barnes**: (CEPH, Griffith University) *"Future Capability Needs for Emergency Management"* **Dr Mahan Mohammadi**, (CEPH, Griffith University) *"Dimensions of hospital resilience emphasised during the COVID-19 pandemic response"* **Li Ting**, (Shenzhen Third People's Hospital, Shenzhen, China & CEPH, Griffith University) *"Challenges and Potential Strategies for Hospital Management to Be Better Prepared for Future Pandemics: Experiences from Shenzhen, China"* **Wendi Perwira Sari**, (CEPH, Griffith University) Enhancing Emergency Management for CALD Communities in Australia: A GIS-Based Vulnerability Assessment
	Continued on next page →

HEAL QLD Regional Hub Session *Agenda (2/2)*

Time (AEST)	Cont.
11:20am-4:30pm	HEAL HDR Candidate Panel: The Next Generation
	Moderator: A/Prof Nick Osborne (School of Public Health, University of Queensland) **Caroline Dowsett**, Queensland University of Technology - Australia-China Centre of Public Health. *"Climate, Weather Variability & Japanese Encephalitis Virus"* **Temesgen Fiseha**, University of Qld & the Dept. of Clinical Laboratory Science, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Wollo University, Ethiopia. *"Novel approaches to kidney disease: identifying modifiable determinants and opportunities for intervention"* **Kavya Bhatt**, University of Qld & the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi), India *"Combined impact of heat and air pollution on cardiovascular outcomes and respiratory outcomes in Australia and India: a time-series study"* **Liuyi Chen,** Frazer Institute - University of Qld. *"Environments and respiratory health: associations with greenness, biodiversity and pollen exposure"*

3:15pm AEST	International Discussion Panel: Regional One Health Challenges & Opportunities
	Moderator: Elena Shack (CEPH, Griffith University) **Em. Professor Hamish McCallum** (Former Centre for Planetary Health & Food Security, Griffith University) **Dr Dicky Budiman** (Centre for Global Health Security and Disaster Network, YARSI University, Indonesia) **Prof Ricardo Magalhaes** (School of Veterinary Science; Faculty of Science, University of Queensland) **Prof Liu Qiyong** (Chief Expert - Vector Control, China CDC, China) **Alistair Dawson** (Inspector-General Emergency Management, Queensland) **A/Prof Vinh Bui** (Faculty of Science and Engineering, Southern Cross University) **Mike Reid** (Chief Plant Health Manager, Biosecurity Queensland) **Jim Dodds** (Former CEO of Safe Foods Queensland) **Prof Alan Liew** (Head of School of Information and Communication Technology, Griffith University)
4:30pm	**Closing Remarks** Prof Cordia Chu
4:35pm-5:30pm	**Networking Function** Location: Foyer S_07

HEAL SA Regional Hub Session

DATE	Monday, 2nd November 2026
TIME	9:00am – 12:30pm ACDT
LOCATION	Adelaide University, Bradley Building, North Tce cnr Morphett St
DELIVERY	**In-person**
CONVENORS	**Prof Craig Williams**, Adelaide University **Dr Yonatal Tefera**, Adelaide University and Health Translation SA **Dr Mira Cooper**, Adelaide University
DESCRIPTION	Theme: NHMRC Healthy Environments and Lives: Researcher Journeys In this session we will learn from early and mid-career researcher and graduate research student students connected with the HEAL SA Regional Hub. These emerging researchers will share the story of their academic journeys over the last five years. Each presenter will reflect and report on the following: • Their research accomplishments • The achievements they are most proud of • How they have matured and developed as a researcher • The advice they would have for themselves if they had a time machine and could go back to 2021 • One thing they had wished they had done but did not do By listening to and learning from these individual researcher journeys we hope to showcase the strength of local regional research networks and provide inspiration and further energy to future researchers. Presentations will be followed by a research careers discussion panel and a free lunch. Attendees: All welcome. This session should be of particular interest to PhD and Masters students, ECRs, MCRs, those supervising developing researchers and anyone with an interest in public and environmental health research.

HEAL SA Regional Hub Session *Agenda*

Time (ACST)	Activity
9:00am – 9:15am	Opening Session – Prof Craig Williams, Adelaide University
	Acknowledgement of Country Welcome & Overview of Session Introduction of Session Chairs
9:15am – 10:15am	Session 1: Researcher Journeys 1 Dr Mira Cooper, Adelaide University
	Dr Yonatal Tefera, Health Translation SA and Adelaide University *"The HEAL Network as a Bridge: My Journey from Exposure Science to Healthy Public Policy"* **Ms Cristina Varghese**, Adelaide University *"From individuals to systems: my journey into the world of public health"* **Mr Ali Malekpour,** Adelaide University *"Window Opening Behaviour in Aged Care Homes: An Engineer's Journey Towards Healthier Indoor Environments"* **Ms Mikaela Todarello**, Flinders University "Growing Through Research"
10:15am-10:35am	Coffee and Tea Break
10:35am-11:45am	Session 2: Researcher Journeys 2 Dr Yonatal Tefera, Health Translation SA
	Dr Sopheak Hem, CRC SAAFE *"From the Clinical Laboratory to One Health: A Journey Towards Healthier Environments"* **Ms Shashikala Wijesooriya**, Adelaide University *"From Curiosity to Purpose: My Journey Through Zoology, Medical Entomology and Citizen Science"* **Ms Crystal Kennett**, Flinders University *"Research, risk and reinvention: the politics of a pathogen"* Legionella, Legislation and the researcher behind the review **Dr Mira Cooper**, Adelaide University *"From Research to Impact: My Journey in Environmental Health"*.
11:45am-12:00pm	Session 3: Career Development Panel Prof Craig Williams
	Dr Ben van den Akker, Adelaide University (formerly of SA Water) **Dr Bri Le Busque**, Adelaide University **Mr Ben Gill**, CEO Plasma Shield
12:00pm	Lunch, Door prizes and Close
12:30pm	Session End

HEAL TAS Regional Hub Session

DATE	Tuesday 20th – Thursday 22nd October 2026
TIME	All day
LOCATION	Tuesday 20th: Phillip Smith Centre, Hobart + online Wednesday 21st: Field trip Bruny Island Thursday 22nd: Phillip Smith Centre, Hobart
DELIVERY	**Hybrid**: Tuesday 20th October **In-person only**: Wednesday 21st – Thursday 22nd October
CONVENOR	Dr Emily Flies, University of Tasmania
DESCRIPTION	**Cultures of Care: Australia–Japan Approaches to Biodiversity Conservation Workshop** The workshop will explore how different cultural perspectives, knowledge systems and relationships with nature can inform and strengthen approaches to biodiversity conservation, climate resilience and sustainable futures. The workshop will bring together researchers, policymakers, Indigenous scholars, practitioners and industry leaders from Australia and Japan, and we will be joined by internationally recognised Japanese colleagues. Please note: The in-person event is now fully booked. Participants can still register for the hybrid event on Day 1 at **this link**.

HEAL TAS Regional Hub Session *Agenda*

Date	Activity
Tuesday 20th Oct	Day 1: What do we know?
	This day will be a hybrid event featuring presentations and discussion on the latest international research on human–nature relationships, including implications for wellbeing, biodiversity conservation and connections to Country.
Wednesday 21st Oct	Day 2: What does it look like in practice?
	This day will provide an opportunity for place-based learning and relationship-building on Bruny Island through visits to Inala Nature Reserve and Murrayfield Station, highlighting Tasmanian approaches to caring for Country and conserving biodiversity.
Thursday 22nd Oct	Day 3: What can we achieve together?
	This day will focus on collaboration, with workshops and discussions, producing outputs on creating more nature-connected communities, developing effective policies and programs, and advancing approaches to measuring and understanding nature connection and its impacts.

HEAL VIC Regional Hub Session

DATE	Tuesday 27th October 2026
TIME	12:00pm – 5:00pm AEDT
LOCATION	207 Bouverie Street, Carlton Vic 3053 / Winhaven Farm, 170 Dalrymple Rd, Sunbury VIC 3429
DELIVERY	In-person
CONVENOR	Dr Nigel Goodman & Prof Rebecca Bentley
DESCRIPTION	Participants will visit Winhaven Farm, the base of AJ Psychology. Winhaven is working with University of Melbourne researchers on the project, **Exploring the contribution of Indigenous Cultural Practices for Health and Wellbeing in Indigenous young people**, which is developing an Elder-led model of healthcare. Participants will learn more about the relationship between health and place and its importance in providing culturally appropriate therapy for young Aboriginal people.

HEAL VIC Regional Hub Session *Agenda*

Time (AEDT)	Activity
12:10pm – 12:45pm	Meet at Standing Room, 183 Grattan Street, Carlton VIC 3053 Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
12:45pm – 1:30pm	Bus departing UoM from 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton VIC 3053 to Winhaven Farm
1:30pm	Arrive at Winhaven Farm
1:45pm	Speakers: A/Prof Alasdair Vance, UoM; Dr Janet McGaw, UoM; Dr Jo Winther, Winhaven
4:00pm	Bus departing Winhaven to UoM
5:00pm	Arrive at UoM, 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton VIC 3053

HEAL WA Regional Hub Session

DATE	Thursday 29th October, 2026
TIME	9:00am – 10:30am AWST
LOCATION	MS Teams
DELIVERY	Online via TEAMS Click here to join the meeting Meeting ID: 448 666 602 542 Passcode: KhgexG
CONVENOR	Prof Aunty Mara West & A/Prof Brad Farrant
DESCRIPTION	Building on the HEAL WA State Seasonal Yarns for 2026, this session will continue a focus on Energy Poverty & Production and its intersections with climate change, and the health and wellbeing of communities and Country. In response to previous insights and issues shared, we will hear from Policy makers and service providers in regards current activities and collectively identify and explore gaps and opportunities in building resilient, green, and equitable energy solutions across WA The session will be participatory, and we welcome everyone living and working at the intersections of climate change, and the health and wellbeing of communities and Country.

HEAL WA Regional Hub Session *Agenda*

Time (AEDT)	Activity
9:00am – 9:15am	Open Session
	Acknowledgement of Country Welcome & Overview of Session **Recap of HEAL WA and Energy Discussions to date** – Jo Taylor and Jaime Yallup Farrant
9:15am – 10:00am	Energy Poverty, Production, Policy and Service Provision – Jo Taylor and Jaime Yallup Farrant
	TBA **Synergy** Energy Resilience and Services in Southwest Interconnected System **Horizon Energy** Energy Resilience and Services in Rural Remote Communities Q&A
10:00am – 10:15am	Small Group Breakouts – Identifying gaps and opportunities
10:15am – 10:25am	Collaborating for Impact – Synthesis
10:25am – 10:30am	Wrap up & next steps

Day 2 Schedule – Global South **3 Nov**

Time (AEDT)	Activity
12:00pm – 12:10pm	Global South: Welcome and Opening (Chair: **Prof Rachel Davey**)
12:10pm – 1:15pm	**Session 1: Wildfire, Smoke and Health: Protecting Communities in a Changing Climate** As wildfire and smoke risks evolve across the Western Pacific, how can the health sector move from responding to individual emergencies toward sustained preparedness, prevention and resilience? Go to page
1:15pm – 1:45pm	**Session 2: Keynote Presentations** • **Prof Wei Huang** (Peking University) *"Research to Support Evidence-Informed Policy Making and Action"* • **Prof Ying Zhang** (University of Sydney) *"From Vulnerability to Resilience: Advancing Climate and Health Equity Across the Asia-Pacific"* Go to page
1:45pm – 3:15pm	**Session 3: Heat, Air and Adaptation: Community-led Responses Across the Global South and Australia** This session brings together leading researchers, policymakers and practitioners from Australia and the Global South to explore community-led responses to extreme heat, air pollution and climate adaptation. Go to page
3:15pm	End of Day

Day 2: Session 1

Wildfire, Smoke and Health – Protecting Communities in a Changing Climate

DATE	Tuesday, 3rd November 2026
TIME	12:10pm – 1:15pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CHAIR	Mr Josselyn Mothe (WHO ACE)
SPEAKERS	Keynote: **Prof Sotiris Vardoulakis**, University of Canberra *Climate Change and Health Risks – Adaptation and Resilience in the Western Pacific Region* Keynote: **Mr Josselyn Mothe**, WHO ACE *From Shared Air to Shared Action: Putting Health at the Heart of of Regional Air Pollution Corporation* Panel: **Dr David Rojas-Rueda**, **Dr Hae-Kwan Cheong** and **Bounmany Soulideth**
DESCRIPTION	As wildfire and smoke risks evolve across the Western Pacific, how can the health sector move from responding to individual emergencies toward sustained preparedness, prevention and resilience? This session brings together leaders from WHO, academia and government to explore evidence-informed responses, transboundary pollution, heat-health preparedness, and policy solutions. Discussions will highlight opportunities to strengthen collaboration, protect health, and accelerate implementation across the region.

Day 2: Session 2

Keynote Presentations

DATE	Tuesday, 3rd November 2026
TIME	1:15pm -1:45pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CHAIR	-
SPEAKERS	Keynote: **Prof Wei Huang,** Peking Uni, "*Research to Support Evidence-Informed Policy Making and Action in Air Pollution and Health: China Experience*" Keynote: **Prof Ying Zhang**, University of Sydney, "*From Shared Air to Shared Action: Putting Health at the Heart of of Regional Air Pollution Corporation*"
DESCRIPTION	**Research to Support Evidence-Informed Policy Making and Action, Prof Wei Huang, Peking University** Drawing on China's experience, this presentation highlights the need for actionable, context-specific air pollution and health research to inform policy, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. It outlines a pathway from monitoring and exposure assessment to risk communication and intervention, emphasising research capacity, surveillance, and evidence-based action to reduce disease burden. **From Vulnerability to Resilience: Advancing Climate and Health Equity Across the Asia-Pacific, Prof Ying Zhang, University of Sydney** Climate change is intensifying health risks and deepening health inequities across the Asia-Pacific region. Meanwhile, participatory research, inclusive policies and cross-sector collaboration can drive meaningful change. Drawing on studies involving vulnerable populations across the region, Professor Zhang will reflect on how locally grounded evidence and collaborative action can build a healthier, more equitable and resilient future for all.

Day 2: Session 3

Heat, Air and Adaptation: Community-led Responses Across the Global South and Australia

DATE	Tuesday, 3rd November 2026
TIME	1:45pm – 3:15pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CHAIR	Prarthana Borah
SPEAKERS	Keynote: **Prof Bin Jalalludin** Panel: • **Dr Ritika Kapoor,** Nature Resources Defense Council • **Ms Aakansha Priyadarshini,** Aurassure Pvt Ltd • **Ms Chee Ann Rono,** Environment Specialist, ADB Ventures • **Dr Salmon Jacob,** East Asia, World Vision International
DESCRIPTION	This session brings together leading researchers, policymakers and practitioners from Australia and the Global South to explore community-led responses to extreme heat, air pollution and climate adaptation. Through keynote presentations and panel discussions, speakers will share transferable lessons, innovative solutions and practical actions to strengthen resilience, protect health, and advance climate adaptation across diverse communities.

Day 3 Schedule – **4 Nov**

Time (AEDT)	Activity
12:00pm – 12:40pm	National Plenary Session 4 Nov: Welcome and Opening **Acknowledgement of Country: Professor Aunty Linda Ford**, Charles Darwin University **Opening**: **The Hon Rebecca White MP**, Assistant Minister for Women, for Indigenous Health and for Health and Aged Care **Opening**: **Prof The Hon Bill Shorten**, Vice-Chancellor, University of Canberra **HEAL Director Overview: Prof Sotiris Vardoulakis**, Director HEAL National Research Network and Health Research Institute, University of Canberra
12:40pm – 1:40pm	**Session 1: Indigenous Knowledges for Climate and Health** Indigenous Knowledges provide essential guidance for addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change, environmental sustainability and health.
1:40pm – 2:40pm	**Session 2: National Healthy Air Strategy** Air pollution from bushfire smoke, transport, gas cooking, wood heating, pathogens, pollen and other sources poses significant health and economic costs in Australia.
2:40pm – 3:00pm	Break and E-Posters viewing
3:00pm – 4:30pm	Thematic Breakout Sessions: A. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and knowledge translation for building resilience to environmental change B. At-risk populations, early life effects and life-course solutions C. Health impacts of bushfires, air pollution and extreme events D. Food, soil and water safety and security in a changing environment E. Biosecurity, and emerging infections in the context of environmental change F. Urban health, built environment and nature-based solutions
4:30pm – 5:30pm	**Session 3: Powering Health: Clean Energy and Climate Solutions for a Healthy Future** Clean energy is vital for climate action and public health. This panel brings together experts from research, advocacy and regional development to explore how clean energy can improve health, strengthen resilience, deliver social and economic benefits, and support a fair transition to a low-carbon future.
5:30pm	End of Day

Day 3: Session 1

Indigenous Knowledges for Climate and Health

DATE	Wednesday, 4th November 2026
TIME	12:40pm – 1:40pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CHAIR	**Prof Aunty Mara West,** The Kids Research Institute Australia
SPEAKERS	Keynote**: Prof Phil Duncan,** University of Canberra Panel: • **Prof Aunty Linda Ford,** Charles Darwin University • **Emily Ford,** Charles Darwin University
DESCRIPTION	Indigenous Knowledges provide essential guidance for addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change, environmental sustainability and health. This session features a keynote presentation on Indigenous approaches to water stewardship, governance and resilience, followed by a fireside yarn with First Nations leaders and knowledge holders exploring pathways to healthier, more sustainable and equitable futures.

Day 3: Session 2

National Healthy Air Strategy

DATE	Wednesday, 4th November 2026
TIME	1:40pm – 2:40pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CHAIR	**Dr Sharon Campbell,** University of Tasmania
SPEAKERS	Panel • **Prof Rebecca Haddock,** Asthma Australia • **Distinguished Prof Lidia Morawska,** Queensland University of Technology • **Prof Fay Johnston,** University of Tasmania
DESCRIPTION	Air pollution from bushfire smoke, transport, gas cooking, wood heating, pathogens, pollen and other sources poses significant health and economic costs in Australia. This session brings together leading experts to discuss a National Healthy Air Strategy, including cleaner indoor environments, emissions reduction, electrification, and actions needed to improve air quality, health, and economic outcomes.

Day 3: Thematic Breakout Session (A)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and knowledge translation for building resilience to environmental change

DATE	Wednesday, 4 November 2026
TIME	3:00pm – 4:30pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CONVENER	**A/Prof Veronica Matthews**, University of Sydney
DESCIPTION	Presentations will highlight the importance of supporting Indigenous community researchers and leaders, caring for Country through Indigenous stewardship practices, responding to climate-related health impacts, and co-designing locally driven resilience initiatives. Speakers will showcase projects from across Australia that centre Indigenous priorities, values and ways of knowing in climate-health research and action.

See agenda on the next page →

Day 3: Thematic Breakout Session (A) *Agenda*

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and knowledge translation for building resilience to environmental change

Time (AEDT)	Activity
3:00pm	Acknowledgement of Country Welcome & Overview of Session (A/Prof Veronica Matthews, USyd)
3:05pm – 4:25pm	Presentations Speakers
	Prof Aunty Linda Ford/Ms Sharna Motlap, CDU *"Exploring career pathways of Indigenous community researchers"*
	Dr Coen Hird, UQ *"Relational foundations for Indigenous-led sugarbag stewardship"*
	Mr Joel Bones, University of Melbourne *"First Impacted, First Heard: From Indigenous-led climate health research to action through TRACKS"*
	Aunty Joyce Drummond and Victoria Stroud, Murdoch University *"The Wakuthuni Heat Waves Project: Building community resilience to mitigate against cardiovascular and other health effects of extreme heat in Pilbara, Australia"*
	Ms Jess Riley/ Dr Lauren Tynan, UNSW *"Campfire theory: Aboriginal-led climate adaptation and wellbeing research in Trouwerner (Tasmania)"*
	Ms Kris Vine, UCRH, Usyd *"Healing Country: Co-creating evaluation approaches for Aboriginal community-led climate adaptation"*
	Ms Sharna Motlap, CDU *"Case-study: Co-designed Community Resilience Plan"*
	Group Q&A
	Closing Remarks
4:30pm	Session End

Day 3: Thematic Breakout Session (B)

At-risk populations, early life effects and life-course solutions

DATE	Wednesday, 4 November 2026
TIME	3:00pm – 4:30pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CONVENOR	**Prof Caitlin Wyrwoll**, University of Western Australia **A/Prof Alexander Larcombe**, Curtin University
DESCRIPTION	In this session we will hear from seven speakers on two key themes. The first presents evidence quantifying exposure-health relationships: how attributable health impacts are counted, night-time heat and associative memory in midlife and older adults, maternal heat strain in pregnancy, and occupational heat stress among Nepalese migrant and agricultural workers. The second turns to adaptation, preparedness and service systems: residential aged care during Cyclone Alfred, structural invisibility of multicultural communities in regional Victoria, and community-led emergency preparedness with CALD communities in the ACT. Target audience: researchers, practitioners and policy makers in public health, aged care, maternal and migrant health, emergency management and climate adaptation, and HEAL early- and mid-career researchers working with at-risk populations. Takeaways: where life-course evidence on heat and air pollution is strongest and where it is thin; how measurement choices change which health impacts become visible to decision-makers; transferable features of culturally safe, life-stage-appropriate adaptation; and the structural barriers (housing, workforce, data, language access, fragmented governance) that recur across all seven studies.

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Day 3: Thematic Breakout Session (B) *Agenda*

At-risk populations, early life effects and life-course solutions

Time (AEDT)	Activity
3:00pm	Acknowledgement of Country Welcome & Overview of Session (Caitlin/Alexander)
3:05pm	Presentations 1: Quantifying the exposure–health relationship
	Mr Neal Fann, World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Climate Change Health Impact Assessment *"Evaluating static and dynamic approaches to quantifying the human health impacts attributable to air pollution: a proof-of-concept analysis for Australia"*
	Dr Anna Behler, University of Newcastle *"Warmer night-time temperatures are associated with poorer associative memory in midlife and older Australians"*
	Professor Sibusiso Mkwananzi and **Ms Kutloano Skhosana**, Wits RHI – Climate and Health Directorate *"Maternal heat strain in a warming world: levels and associated factors among pregnant women in Tshwane, South Africa"*
	Assistant Professor Arjun Aryal, Central Department of Public Health, Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu *"Occupational heat stress, mental distress and climate vulnerability among Nepalese migrants in Australia and agricultural workers in Nepal: a comparative secondary data analysis"*
3:45pm	Presentations 2: Adaptation, preparedness and service systems
	Associate Professor Patricia Lee, Griffith University *Assessing climate change vulnerability and exploring adaptation strategies for senior residents of aged care facilities in Southeast Queensland*
	Dr Joanne Adams, Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Research, La Trobe University *Listening to multicultural communities: structural invisibility and environmental health in regional Australia*
	Ms Jamie-Lee McLoughlin and Dr Sabrina Rahman Shanto, Australian Red Cross *EmergencyRedi for the ACT's CALD communities*
4:15pm	Panel Discussion, Q&A
	All seven presenters, moderated by the session conveners Cross-cutting discussion: what would make heat and environmental health adaptation work for at-risk populations across the life course
4:30pm	Session End

Day 3: Thematic Breakout Session (C)

Health impacts of bushfires, air pollution and extreme events

DATE	Wednesday, 4 November 2026
TIME	3:00pm – 4:30pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CONVENOR	**Prof Fay Johnston**, Menzies Institute for Medical Research, University of Tasmania **Prof Geoff Morgan,** University Centre for Rural Health, University of Sydney
DESCRIPTION	This session will explore the health impacts of climate-related environmental exposures, including wildfire smoke, air pollution, haze events, and extreme heat. Presentations span epidemiological, toxicological, and population health research, highlighting the burden of morbidity and mortality, underlying biological mechanisms, and the influence of social vulnerability and inequality. The session also showcases community-based climate adaptation strategies to strengthen resilience and protect public health in a changing climate.

See agenda on the next page →

Day 3: Thematic Breakout Session (C) *Agenda*

Health impacts of bushfires, air pollution and extreme events

Time (AEDT)	Activity
3:00pm	Acknowledgement of Country Welcome & Overview of Session (Fay/Geoff)
3:05pm	Accepted abstract presentations
	Mr Chala Yadate, Australian National University *"Wildfire smoke exposure and multisystem morbidity in the context of climate change: A systematic review and meta-analysis"*
	Dr Sharon Campbell, University of Tasmania *"Hospital admissions associated with PM2.5 in the Northern Territory, Australia"*
	Dr Paweena Aendo, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University *"A comparison study of the prevalence of ten diseases between the haze season and the non-haze season in Chiang Mai, Thailand"*
	Asst Prof Eleni Dovrou, University of Crete *"Tracing Oxidation and Nervous Signal Response of Particulate Matter and Reactive Atmospheric Species Inhalation"*
	Ms Sabrina Guensche, Adelaide University *"Mapping Heatwave-Related Mortality and Projecting Future Burden Among Older Australians"*
	Dr Tanya Singh, Macquarie University *"Socioeconomic inequality in underlying mortality as an overlooked component of the heat-attributable burden: a case study from New South Wales, Australia"*
	Dr Syeda Hira Fatima, University of Canberra *"Strengthening public health through community resilience centres for climate adaptation: The ClimateRes project"*
4:15pm	Panel Discussion, Q&A
	Moderator: Fay/Geoff • Mr Chala Yadate, Australian National University • Sharon Campbell, University of Tasmania • Dr Paweena Aendo, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University • Prof Eleni Dovrou, University of Crete • Sabrina Guensche, Adelaide University • Dr Tanya Singh, Macquarie University • Dr Syeda Hira Fatima, University of Canberra
4.28pm	Closing Remarks

Day 3: Thematic Breakout Session (D)

Food, soil and water safety and security in a changing environment

DATE	Wednesday, 4 November 2026
TIME	3:00pm – 4:30pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CONVENOR	**Prof Anne Roiko**, SAAFE CRC (Cooperative Research Centre for Solving Antimicrobial Resistance in Agribusiness, Food, and Environments) and Adelaide University. **Prof Thava Palanisami**, Australian Plastic Research and Innovation Laboratory (APRIL) and University of Newcastle
DESCRIPTION	This session explores the interconnected challenges of food, soil and water security in a changing environment, bringing together research on resilient food systems, climate adaptation, environmental exposures and public health. The session starts with a focus on Indigenous perspectives and food systems resilience; then moves onto to water quality and environmental contamination issues, and then emerging microbial hazards, microplastics and antimicrobial resistance before ending with a short open discussion with Q&A. Collectively, these talks aim to foster interdisciplinary discussion, share emerging evidence and identify opportunities for research, policy and practical interventions to strengthen environmental and public health protection.

See agenda on the next page →

Day 3: Thematic Breakout Session (D) *Agenda*

Food, soil and water safety and security in a changing environment

Time (AEDT)	Activity
3.00pm	**Prof Thava Palanisami,** University of Newcastle Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome
	A/Prof Ro McFarlane, University of Canberra *Revisiting Urban Food System Resilience*
	Ms Kelsie Dale & Mr. Casey Neathway, Ministry of Health – Saskatchewan *Integrating Environmental Public Health and Indigenous Perspectives to Strengthen Food Safety Resilience During Climate-Related Emergencies*
	Mr Abul Kashem Sheikh, Kathak Academy Bangladesh *Food, Soil and Water Safety and Security in a Changing Environment*
	Prof Anne Roiko, SAAFE CRC and Adelaide University *Water Security, Environmental Exposures and Public Health*
	Dr Mira Cooper-Beknazarova, Adelaide University *From Roof to Tap: Emerging Public Health Risks in Harvested Rainwater*
	Dr Thi Ha Lien Le, ANU *Age-Specific Associations Between Drinking Water Quality and Chronic Diseases in Regional and Remote Australia*
	Mr Fardeen Monayem *Climate Migrants in Urban Areas: Water and Sanitation Adaptation Indicators*
	Ms Rasyiida Acintya, Kopernik *Enhancing Radiological Risk Mapping in Settled and Cultivated Terrain*
	Ms Renay Wells, Griffith University *Beyond Wastewater Treatment: Circular Water Pathways in Textile Manufacturing*
	Prof Thava Palanisami, University of Newcastle *Emerging Microbial Hazards, Microplastics and Antimicrobial Resistance*
	Dr Sopheak Hem, Adelaide University *Efficacy of Free Chlorine, Monochloramine, and UV Disinfection on Acanthamoeba polyphaga–Acinetobacter baumannii Interactions*
	Dr Emily Stevenson, University of Queensland *The Great Plastisphere Reef: Microplastics as a Novel Niche for Antimicrobial Resistant Pathogens*
4.18pm	Panel Discussion & Q&A
4.30pm	Session End **Prof Thava Palanisami,** University of Newcastle

Day 3: Thematic Breakout Session (E)

Biosecurity and emerging infections in the context of environmental change

DATE	Wednesday, 4 November 2026
TIME	3:00pm – 4:30pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CONVENOR	Prof Wenbiao Hu, Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Dr Kinley Wangdi, University of Canberra (UC) Dr Ting Gan, QUT Ms Caroline Dowsett, QUT
DESCRIPTION	This session focuses on climate-sensitive infectious diseases (CSIDs), bringing together presenters to share the latest research from Australia and around the world. Presentations will explore how changing climatic conditions influence the emergence, distribution and transmission of CSID, and consider the implications for population health, disease surveillance and outbreak preparedness. As climate change creates increasingly favourable conditions for the transmission of some CSIDs, translating research findings into timely public health action is essential. This session will highlight opportunities to strengthen early warning systems, improve risk assessment and guide targeted prevention and control strategies. It will also emphasise the importance of incorporating climate-informed evidence into health policy and planning, fostering collaboration across human, animal and environmental health sectors, and building resilient health systems capable of responding to evolving infectious disease threats.

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Day 3: Thematic Breakout Session (E) *Agenda*

Biosecurity and emerging infections in the context of environmental change

Time (AEDT)	Activity
3.00pm	**Dr Kinley Wangdi**, UC Acknowledgement of Country Welcome & Overview
3.03pm - 4:05pm	Presentations
	Ms Caroline Dowsett, *QUT* *The whole or its parts? Environmental relationships in aggregate and species-specific Culex mosquito surveillance for Japanese encephalitis early warning*
	Asst. Prof Arjun Aryal, *Tribhuvan University* *Climate-Driven Expansion of Vector-Borne Diseases: Comparative Secondary Data Analysis of Dengue Surveillance in Nepal and Australia*
	Dr Eloise Skinner, University of Queensland An interdisciplinary analysis of saline
	Ms Christina Varghese, Adelaide University *Examining the delayed effects of temperature on Ross River virus infections in Australia: current risk and projected burden*
	Ms Ni Made Hegard Sukmawati, University of Sydney *Weather and Ross River Virus Risk in NSW: A Case-Crossover Study with Distributed Lag Non-Linear Models"*
	Dr Ting Gan, QUT *"Pertussis Burden Across Five Countries from 1990 to 2023: Epidemiological Patterns and Vaccination Policies"*
4:05pm	Panel Discussion & Q&A
4:25pm	Closing remarks - **Prof Wenbiao Hu**, QUT
4.30pm	Session End

Day 3: Thematic Breakout Session (F)

Urban health, built environment and nature-based solutions

DATE	Wednesday, 4 November 2026
TIME	3:00pm – 4:30pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CONVENOR	A/Prof Lucy Gunn, RMIT
DESCRIPTION	In this session we will hear from eight speakers working across urban health, built environment and nature-based solutions. This year's presentations explore urban heating and cooling, green and blue spaces, indoor air quality and urban allergens.

See agenda on the next page →

Day 3: Thematic Breakout Session (F) *Agenda*

Urban health, built environment and nature-based solutions

Time (AEDT)	Activity
3.00 pm	Welcome A/Prof Lucy Gunn, RMIT
3.03 pm-4:09pm	Speakers
	Dr Yohannes Damtew, Adelaide University *Public Cooling Places as Adaptive Urban Infrastructure: A Systems-Based Analysis of evidence*
	Dr Zelalem Mengesha, University of Canberra *From overlooked spaces to wellbeing and belonging: A photovoice study of refugees' experiences of green and blue spaces in Australia*
	Dr Nigel Goodman, University of Canberra *Indoor volatile organic compounds in prefabricated timber buildings – implications for sustainability and health*
	Ms Jierui Dong, RMIT *Supporting School Air Quality Policy Through Long-Term Monitoring of Naturally Ventilated Classrooms*
	Dr Manoj Chandrabose, RMIT *Can't buy me shade: Socioeconomic inequalities in neighbourhood tree canopy loss among mid-to-older adults in Brisbane, Australia*
	Ms Wenhui CAI, RMIT *The urban environmental landscape of chronic health: evidence from neighbourhoods across Greater Melbourne*
	A/Prof Riccardo Paolini, UNSW *Too Hot to Play: Urban Overheating Limiting Access to Public Playgrounds*
	Mr Max Tyler *Joint Associations of Grass Pollen and Near-Road Traffic with Allergic Rhinitis Symptom Occurrence and Severity: Spatiotemporal modelling of mHealth data*
4.09pm	Questions and discussion
4.28pm	**Closing Remarks** - A/Prof Lucy Gunn
4.30pm	Session End

Day 3: Session 3

Powering Health: Clean Energy and Climate Solutions for a Healthy Future

DATE	Wednesday, 4th November 2026
TIME	4:30pm – 5:30pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CHAIR	**Prof Jackie Schirmer, University of Canberra**
SPEAKERS	Panel • **Prof Jacki Schirmer, University of Canberra** • **Dr Kate Wylie** • **Mr Jimmy Cocking, Desert Knowledge Australia** • **Dr Gopika Indu, University of Canberra**
DESCRIPTION	Clean energy is vital for both climate action and public health. Bringing together experts from research, advocacy and regional development, this panel examines how clean energy solutions can reduce health risks, strengthen community resilience, create social and economic benefits, and support a fair and sustainable transition to a low-carbon future.

Day 4 Schedule – **5 Nov**

Time (AEDT)	Activity
12:00pm – 12:30pm	National Plenary Session: Welcome and Opening
12:30pm – 1:30pm	**Session 1: Climate and health adaptation in practice, from the national to the local**
1:30pm – 2:30pm	**Session 2: El-Nino and its impact on the environment and lives**
2:30pm – 2:40pm	Break and E-Posters viewing
2:45pm – 4:15pm	Thematic Breakout Sessions: G. Rural and remote health and climate-related disasters H. Health systems sustainability and resilience to climate change I. Data and decision support systems for environmental health applications J. Science communication, policy translation and impact K. Climate change and mental health and wellbeing
4:15pm – 5:30pm	**Closing Ceremony** Conference Awards
5:30pm	End of Day

Day 4: Session 1

Climate and health adaptation in practice, from the national to the local

DATE	Thursday, 5th November 2026
TIME	12:30pm – 1:30pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CHAIR	**Dr Georgia Behrens,** Australian Centre for Disease Control
SPEAKERS	Panel: • **Dr Kimberly Humphrey,** South Australia Health • **Dr Belle Workman,** University of Melbourne • **Ms Vicktoria Blake,** Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand • **Prof Sotiris Vardoulakis,** University of Canberra • **A/Prof Rosemary Aldrich,** Grampians Public Health Unit
DESCRIPTION	In this session we will explore climate and health adaptation in practice with academics, policymakers, and public health officials leading practical action across a variety of contexts. With practitioners ranging from local public health units to state and national governments, as well as academic experts in the field, this session will deliver real-world insights from people building resilience at all levels of the health system and in communities in Australia and beyond.

Day 4: Session 2

El-Nino and its impact on the environment and lives

DATE	Thursday, 5th November 2026
TIME	1:30pm – 2:30pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CHAIR	**Prof Emeritus David Karoly**
SPEAKERS	Panel: • **Dr Robert Argent**, Bureau of Meteorology • **Dr Mandy Freund**, University of Melbourne • **Prof Mark Howden**, Australian National University • **Dr Nina Lansbury**, The University of Queensland
DESCRIPTION	El Niño events are naturally occurring coupled ocean- atmosphere phenomena that lead to significant warming of the equatorial Pacific Ocean about once very two to five years. Across southern and eastern Australia, El Niño events can be associated with substantial variations of winter and spring rainfall, affecting agriculture and ecosystems, as well as increases in heat extremes later in the season, affecting human health. This panel will examine how climate change is altering these patterns, the strengths and limitations of seasonal and short-term forecasting, and what increasing heat and climate risks mean for communities, health, preparedness, and resilience.

Day 4: Thematic Breakout Session (G)

Rural and remote health and climate-related disasters

DATE	Thursday, 5 November 2026
TIME	2:45pm – 4:15pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CONVENORS	**A/Prof Supriya Mathew**, Menzies School of Health Research **Dr Rebecca McNaught**, University of Sydney
DESCRIPTION	Rural and remote communities are among the most exposed to the health impacts of extreme weather. This session will explore how geographic isolation, limited infrastructure, and existing health inequities in rural and remote locations intersect with climate risks to create unique challenges and opportunities for action. It will also host an Early Career Researcher Roundtable on barriers to career progression in rural and remote settings, and what institutions, funders and senior researchers can do to help. The session will be useful for health professionals, emergency and disaster professionals serving rural and remote locations, researchers and rural and remote community members.

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Day 4: Thematic Breakout Session (G) *Agenda*

Rural and remote health and climate-related disasters

Time (AEDT)	Activity
2:45pm	**Dr Rebecca McNaught,** University of Sydney *Acknowledgement of Country* *Welcome & Overview of Session*
2:50pm	Presentations & Q&A
	Prof. Elaine Lawurrpa, University of Canberra *Waka Ḏurrkanhayngu - Regenerating the Existence of Life": Local and Global Individual, Spiritual, Cultural, Social, Environmental and Economic Impacts on human and Country health*
	Dr Amil Wickramasinghe, University of Tasmania *Escalating Heat and Cold Hazards in Remote First Nations Communities Across Climatically Diverse Regions of Australia*
	Dr Zubair Ahmed Ratan, Menzies School of Health Research *Empowering Minds: Unravelling Psychological Resilience and Coping Mechanisms among Cyclone and Salinity Affected Population in Coastal Bangladesh*
	A/Prof Petra Buergelt, University of Canberra *Weaving Together and Transcending Indigenous and Western Governance Towards a Sustainable Governance System Based on Nature Principles That Reduces Disasters, Increases Adaptation and Restores Planetary Health*
	Q&A with presenters
3:40pm-4:05pm	Round table: Early Career Researcher Roundtable: Barriers to career progression for early career researchers working in rural and remote settings
	Brief introduction Dr Rebecca McNaught introduces the topic and breakout questions
	Breakout room discussions Groups of 5–6 discuss: (1) What makes it hard to build a research career while working in or with rural and remote communities? (2) What should institutions, funders and senior researchers do differently to support ECRs in this space?
	Report back and synthesis Facilitators: Dr Rebecca McNaught and A/Prof Supriya Mathew | Notes: Dr Zubair Ahmed Ratan
	Reviewing the discussion Dr Rebecca McNaught, Dr Zubair Rattan and A/Prof Supriya Mathew
4:15pm	Session End

Day 4: Thematic Breakout Session (H)

Health systems sustainability and resilience to climate change

DATE	Thursday, 5 November 2026
TIME	2:45pm – 4:15pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CONVENOR	**Prof Katy Bell,** The University of Sydney **Dr Luise Kazda**, The University of Sydney & University of Canberra
DESCRIPTION	This session explores how health systems in Australia and beyond can respond to environmental, operational and policy challenges of climate change. Presentations examine how to embed sustainability and resilience into healthcare, from reducing overuse and emissions in clinical care and prevention to adapting services to extreme heat and strengthening preparedness. Talks also share patient and public perspectives on sustainability and climate-related health risks. The session showcases new evidence from across the sector to help transform health systems toward a sustainable future.

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Day 4: Thematic Breakout Session (H) *Agenda*

Health systems sustainability and resilience to climate change

Time (AEDT)	Activity
2:45pm – 2:49pm	**Luise Kazda**, The University of Sydney & University of Canberra *Acknowledgement of Country* *Welcome & Overview of Session*
2:50pm	Invited Talks
	Dr Sean Docking, Monash University *Estimating the health system sustainability benefits of reducing overuse of total knee replacements: An environmentally-extended economic evaluation*
	Dr Alexandra Pavli, The University of Sydney *The greenhouse gas emissions and healthcare costs associated with preventive health interventions: a scoping review*
	Dr Michael Loftus, Monash University *Home sweet home? The impact of extreme heat on hospital in the home services*
	Dr Stanley Chen, Hunter New England Local Health District *The difficulties of large-scale conversion to reusable operating theatre equipment: the example of diathermy return electrodes*
3:34pm	Quick Fire Talks
	Dr Wagih Abu Rowin, University of Melbourne *Optimising operating theatre HVAC energy use: a site-measurement approach to evidence-based setback design*
	Dr Joost Piet, Amsterdam University Medical Centre *Towards appropriate guidance for the ethical challenges of environmentally sustainable prescribing*
	Ms Michelle Lynch, The University of Sydney *Patient perspectives on environmental sustainability in healthcare: a systematic review*
	Dr K-lynn Smith, Macquarie University *Public perceptions of climate-related health risks and health system preparedness: findings from the AU-CLARITY national survey*
	Ms Wendy Williams, Vanuatu Ministry of Health *Developing Vanuatu's first climate change and health research agenda: Integrating climate priorities into a national health research agenda*
	Prof Katy Bell, The University of Sydney *Discussion & Closing Remarks*
4:15pm	Session End

Day 4: Thematic Breakout Session (I)

Data and decision support systems for environmental health applications

DATE	Thursday, 5 November 2026
TIME	2:45pm – 4:15pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CONVENOR	**A/Prof Ivan Hanigan**, Curtin University WHO Collaborating Centre for Climate Change and Health Impact Assessment **Mr Neal Fann**, Curtin University WHO Collaborating Centre for Climate Change and Health Impact Assessment
DESCRIPTION	This session showcases the data infrastructure, analytical tools and decision-support systems that turn environmental health evidence into action. Eight oral presentations cover open-source workflows and tools (CARDAT, R targets pipelines and climate-data streaming), the uncertainty and governance challenges that shape exposure and health data, and applied examples from Queensland, Australian cities and South Asia, including environmental health indicators, respiratory hospitalisations and dengue early warning. The session is aimed at environmental health researchers, data custodians and infrastructure developers, public health practitioners and policy makers who use or commission environmental and health data. Attendees will leave with practical, reproducible and transferable approaches, a clearer view of the data access, quality and uncertainty issues that limit decision-making, and connections for collaboration across the HEAL network.

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Day 4: Thematic Breakout Session (I) *Agenda*

Data and decision support systems for environmental health applications

Time (AEDT)	Activity
2:45pm	**A/Prof Ivan Hannigan and Mr Neal Fann,** Curtin University Acknowledgement of Country Welcome & Overview of Session
2:50pm	Oral Presentations 1: Platforms, tools and data infrastructure
	Dr Charlotte Waudby, Curtin University *Data amalgamation and climate data streaming for environmental health impact assessments*
	Ms Anh Han, Curtin University WHO Collaborating Centre for Climate Change and Health Impact Assessment *Open science with restricted data: An adaptive, reproducible R targets workflow for air pollution health impact assessment across Southeast Asia*
	Dr Pattheera (Paire) Somboonsin, HEAL Global Research Centre, University of Canberra *Critical Environmental Health Data Needs: systematic mapping review and stakeholder analysis*
3:14pm	Oral Presentations 2: Exposure and climate data for health risk assessment
	Mr Jinyi Xie, Queensland University of Technology *Evaluating Climate Data-Source Uncertainty in Administrative-Scale Exposure Assessment Using Historical Reanalysis and Future Climate Projections*
	Ms Pratika Chawala, University of Canberra *Near-road NO2 exposures in Australian cities – implications for air quality management*
	MrJahirul Islam, Queensland University of Technology *Cross-country external validation of a mechanistic climate suitability index for dengue prediction in South Asia*
3:38 pm AEDT	Oral Presentations 3: Indicators and health surveillance for decision-making
	Dr Javier Cortes-Ramirez, Queensland University of Technology Development and use of environmental health indicators suited for decision-making in public health
	Mr Md Momin Islam, Queensland University of Technology Age- and Sex-Specific Patterns of Influenza, Pneumonia, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus Hospitalisations Across Queensland, Australia, 2001-2020
3:54 pm	Panel Discussion & Q&A
4:15pm	Session End

Day 4: Thematic Breakout Session (J)

Science communication, policy translation and impact

DATE	Thursday, 5 November 2026
TIME	2:45pm – 4:15pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CONVENOR	**Dr Paul Barnes**, Griffith University **Ms Constanze Meier**, Curtin University WHO Collaborating Centre for Climate Change and Health Impact Assessment
DESCRIPTION	Science communication, policy translation and impact examine how different forms of knowledge can support healthier, more resilient societies. Drawing on planetary health, Indigenous knowledge, extreme heat, vaccine hesitancy, health adaptation planning and clean air community-research partnerships, it explores how researchers, policymakers, practitioners and communities can connect knowledge, policy and practice to enable meaningful change to tackle the climate crisis.

See agenda on the next page →

Day 4: Thematic Breakout Session (J) *Agenda*

Science communication, policy translation and impact

Time (AEDT)	Activity
2:45pm – 2:49pm	**Paul Barnes and Constanze Meier** *Acknowledgement of Country* *Welcome & Overview of Session*
2:50pm	Oral Presentations
	Mr Kristian Mikhel, University of Tasmania *"From silence to synergy: first lessons from a community-researcher partnership for clean air in Marino, Adelaide"*
	Ms Jessica Clark, Assistant Director Australian Centre for Disease Control *"Australia's first National Health Adaptation Plan: adaptation planning for climate-resilient health systems"*
	Dr Lindsie Arthur *"Thermal literacy: a conceptual framework for building adaptive capacity to extreme heat"*
	A/Prof Petra Buergelt Interlacing Indigenous, ancient mystic Western, and supressed scientific ways of being-knowing-doing to create joined disaster and climate actions that restore planetary health
	Panel Discussion
4:15pm	Session End

Day 4: Thematic Breakout Session (K)

Climate change and mental health and wellbeing

DATE	Thursday, 5 November 2026
TIME	2:45pm – 4:15pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CONVENOR	**A/Prof Nasser Bagheri**, University of Canberra **Dr Syeda Hira Fatima**, University of Canberra
DESCRIPTION	Climate change is affecting mental health and wellbeing through extreme heat, climate-related disasters, environmental change and growing concerns about the future. These impacts vary across populations and communities, highlighting the need for evidence informed, equitable and practical responses. This session brings together researchers and mental health experts to share emerging evidence on climate-related mental health risks, vulnerable populations and opportunities for adaptation. Through keynote presentations, research talks and a panel discussion, the session will explore how research can inform mental health services, community resilience and policy responses. The session is relevant to researchers, mental health professionals, public health practitioners, policymakers and community organisations. Participants will gain insights into current evidence, key research gaps and priorities for translating research into action to protect mental health and wellbeing in a changing climate.

See agenda on the next page →

Day 4: Thematic Breakout Session (K) *Agenda*

Climate change and mental health and wellbeing

Time (AEDT)	Activity
2:45pm	Acknowledgement of Country Welcome & Overview of Session (Nasser Bagheri)
2:50pm	Keynote Speakers
	Dr Hasini Gunasiri, Orygen, University of Melbourne *Platform for Research and Intervention in youth Mental Health and the Environment*
	Dr Cybele Dey, UNSW, Sydney
3:10pm	*Invited Talks*
	Dr Batange Haruna, African Centre for Ageing & Dementia, Uganda *Tackling climate change in Uganda through vulnerability assessment and health adaptation planning to build health system resilience*
	Mr Amensisa Tesfaye, University of Technology Sydney *Mental health outcomes associated with climate change-related events and their determinants in Australia: A systematic review and meta-analysis*
	Dr Ans Vercammen, Curtin University, Australia *It is quite daunting to be living in unprecedented times": Examining the psychological repercussions of climate change for young Australians and their visions for the future*
	Dr Fereshteh Kalantari, The University of Queensland *Seasonality of community mental health service contacts for mental health disorders in Queensland, Australia*
	Dr Juma Rahman, Research & Evaluation Office, New Zealand *Temporal Trends in Heatwaves and Suicidal Events in Netrokona District, Bangladesh*
	Dr Syeda Hira Fatima, University of Canberra, Australia *Heat and mental health hospitalisations in Australia: A national spatiotemporal analysis*
	Dr Buhle Lubuzo, Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute, South Africa *Effectiveness and Acceptability of a Mobile Heat-Health Early Warning System for Pregnant and Postpartum Women in South Africa: A Mixed- Methods Evaluation*
	Ms Jaime J. Turnbull, The Kids Research Institute Australia *Global systematic review of how climate change degrades the wellbeing and health of Indigenous children*
	Ms Daphne Bruggemann, University of Tasmania, Australia *Nature connection and psychological wellbeing in a changing climate: a systematic review*
3:55 pm	Panel Discussion & Q&A
4:15pm	Session End

Day 4: Closing Ceremony

DATE	Thursday, 5th November 2026
TIME	4:15pm – 5:00pm AEDT
DELIVERY	Online
CHAIR	**Ms Adrienne Walls-Nichols,** University of Canberra
SPEAKERS	• **Dr Dharani Sabba,** University of Canberra • **Ms Kris Vine,** University of Sydney • **Prof Aunty Mara West,** The Kids Research Institute Australia • **Prof Sotiris Vardoulakis,** University of Canberra

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