

# 2015-2016 Annual Report



Photo: Will Spiers

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# Message from the chair



**Australia should have entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century with vision, optimism, courage, compassion, pride and determination.**

The call by the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull for innovation must be more than a rhetorical flourish to disguise national paralysis. In the quest for transition to a fossil fuel free economy, as a matter of urgent national and global necessity, the reality is that Australia is falling well behind comparable nations whose natural advantages are far inferior.

For the UK, whose grey skies and crowded landscapes are far less favourable, to produce more solar power than Australia is a national shame. German wind and solar power generation greatly exceeds that produced by Australia. Solar thermal plants are blossoming in many other countries.

The economies of the future will rely on new technologies creating new employment. The abundance of Australian solar, wind and wave energy currently being lost is viewed with disbelief by less fortunate nations. With a per capita carbon footprint amongst the highest in the world, Australia should be far more foresighted.

Our governments are not listening to the scientific facts and have a distressing tendency to defer to polluting lobbyists. This has been the burden imposed on DEA effort in the past year.

## **International initiatives**

During the year, the Lancet Commissions Report: *Health and climate change*, was released and in November/December the COP 21 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) resulted in the powerful Paris Accord where 195 nations made commitments to decisively address the problem.

President Obama's 2015 Clean Energy Plan outlined the great health, climate and economic benefits which would result. The Papal Encyclical on Climate Change reached out to a global audience and had an impact. The Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon, again added the weight of his intellect, leadership and office to the voices of sanity and concern. He was one of millions of individuals in hundreds of

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cities and towns in scores of nations who had joined a globally coordinated Peoples March on Climate Change in September 2014.

Leaders, like President Anote Tong of Kiribati, and young people from the Pacific and Indian Ocean islands made their appeals to the hearts and minds of representatives of assembled nations in Paris to be sure that the world heard their stories of existential threat.

This annual report will detail DEA's participation and promulgation of many of these issues and events.

### Australian inertia

Australia remains in denial as it prepares to unleash upon the world increasing quantities of fossil fuels sourced from proposed large new coal mines and a proliferation of unconventional gas wells.

As this Report reveals, the two major Parties refused to discuss this issue with us during the June election campaign.

Even excluding Australia's intention to expand the export of fossil fuels and their eventual impact upon global emission levels, we believe domestic policies are unlikely to honour the commitment made in Paris, a commitment which was too low in the first place.

Ignoring the climate change plight of the rest of the world, as Australia is currently doing, the evidence that it is occurring across our nation is too powerful to ignore. Dangerous heat waves have occurred. Capital cities have experienced record runs of daily

temperature above 35°C. Monthly records are being broken and the average daily temperature throughout the past few decades continues to climb. Doctors for the Environment Australia has highlighted these health threatening events in briefings to politicians and in our Fact Sheets on *Climate change and health in Australia* for the medical profession and community.

We have made significant efforts to place air pollution from fossil fuels on the national agenda. An estimated 3,000 deaths occur each year from particulate matter air pollution in Australia, more than the total motor vehicle accident toll. The resurgence, or more accurate recognition, of Black Lung disease associated with coal mining indicates the lax regulation applied to air pollution and associated greenhouse emissions.

### The role, achievements and goals of Doctors for the Environment Australia

The primary roles of DEA are:

- to rigorously analyse the scientific evidence linking environmental hazards to health;
- write policy position papers that address these issues;
- educate the profession about these hazards and attempt to persuade their affiliated organisations to address the issues more boldly;
- seek to publish and work through the media to influence the wider community;
- brief politicians; concerned groups and individuals who share similar concerns.

The aim of DEA is to ensure that health is not ignored when public policy and practice will have predictable adverse consequences. The ongoing legacy of asbestos should remind all governments that when medical practitioners raise scientifically based concerns, then they must be heard and heeded.

This annual report details our main efforts during 2015-16 with emphasis on what we consider achievements. It is apparent that we have greatly expanded our contributions in the media and input into initiatives from the AMA and RACP. We consider that we have had influence in the development of cleaner air, in the control of coal mining and unconventional gas extraction through education and personal explanation.

In the coming year we will endeavour to hone our professional and strategic approach, within our limited resources. We aim to encourage cohorts of medical students and young doctors to become involved, active and determined and to realise that joint effort can lead to change. We intend to increase our liaison with the Royal Colleges and to expand our professional message at our annual scientific meeting in Melbourne April 1-2, 2017.

We continue to keep abreast with advances being made in renewable energy technologies and the reasons behind the delay in their introduction for the transition from fossil fuels is a public health necessity. We will expand our work to bring about regulatory reforms and to

encourage federal government to offer leadership in climate mitigation and adaptation.

I wish to thank all members of the Management Committee and other members throughout the states and territories who have contributed so much during the course of the year to the activities of DEA.

Our special thanks go to David Shearman who remains the key-stone of DEA and to Eugenie Kayak and Kristen Pearson who

have shouldered much of the burden during this period. Helen Redmond has been a key figure in DEA`s divestment initiatives and was a major contributor to the joint CAHA and DEA publication entitled *Investing in Health*.

Organisations such as DEA are energised by the passion, ideas and actions of student members and young doctors; I thank Sarah Cohn, Kate Wheldrake, and Declan Scragg for accepting leadership roles during the last

18 months and Beau Frigault and his team for organising the successful Brisbane 2016 iDEA Conference. I also thank DEA staff who have continued to give great service beyond the call of duty.



Professor Kingsley Faulkner AM  
August 2016



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# Our Action

## Climate Change

This annual report details the wide spectrum of our activities on the causes of climate change but in this section we highlight specific educational activities on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The year was one of frustrations and disappointments in climate change action because of the increasing politicisation of the topic and the unwillingness of governments to act. The prime example was provided by one of DEA's election 2016 initiatives, a 14<sup>th</sup> June letter<sup>1</sup> from Fiona Stanley to every election candidate pleading for action on climate change through reduction in coal mining and combustion. Not one candidate from the two major parties responded; instead there was a centralised response from the Coalition and from Labor restating their climate policy. Clearly both parties felt it too dangerous to allow their candidates to comment on the greatest health threat of this century.<sup>2</sup> We thank Fiona Stanley for her help and forbearance in this election initiative.

Our election initiatives also included a letter to Malcolm Turnbull which was signed by 400 health professionals and delivered to his office and an open letter to all candidates in the electorate of New England.

In the lead up to the November 2015 Paris Conference, there was much national debate on targets for reduction of greenhouse emissions. In response to the government's targets for Paris a DEA media release<sup>3</sup> said "*Medical experts say the health impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly evident, and have condemned the Abbott Government's carbon emissions targets of 26 to 28 percent by 2030, based on 2005 levels*". Our opinion was taken up by ABC Environment, 12 August by DEA's Policy and Advocacy Officer Sallie Forrest *Health of Australians suffering as government again fails to address climate change*<sup>4</sup>, by Green Career *Emissions plan shows commitment to resistance*<sup>5</sup> and by Renew Economy and Independent Australia, 13 August, *Bugger the science: Abbott aims for last place on emissions cuts*<sup>6,7</sup>.

Attempts to engage the government in the lead up to the important Paris conference were also difficult. DEA launched an open letter<sup>8</sup> calling for the Health Minister to attend the UN Climate Change negotiations. The letter asked doctors, parents, grandparents and concerned citizens to sign and support the call for the Health Minister to attend in recognition of the major health ramifications of climate change, especially for

children. The letter was written to raise awareness of this issue among parents and grandparents, and the medical profession, and clearly frame climate change as a health issue. The letter appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald<sup>9</sup>. It was also featured on Open Forum<sup>10</sup>, Starts at Sixty<sup>11</sup> and Croakey<sup>12</sup>.

Signatories included Professor Fiona Stanley AC (former Australian of the Year and child health specialist), Emeritus Professor Robert Douglas AO (leading respiratory and public health expert), Dr Christine Tippet AM (obstetrician and gynaecologist, former President of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists), and Professor Ian Lowe AO (former ACF President and science and sustainable technology policy professor). A response was received from Minister Ley which reiterated government policy only. We were not alone in our failure to influence a government which remained resolute in asserting their view that they had a very good record of action on climate change.

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) reached out to our colleagues around the world for endorsement of a Consensus Statement highlighting the severe health impacts of climate



change and calling for action. DEA signed on as a partner and also signed on to the campaign Doctors for Climate Action and participated in the People's Climate March in November 2015.

DEA's educational activities are illustrated by our *Climate change and health in Australia* fact sheets<sup>13,14</sup> and by DEA members participating in the RACP working

party on climate and health and we commend the College for the outcomes. Similarly, educational opportunities have been pursued with the AMA.

This educational activity has extended to our submissions to state governments which reviewed climate policy in 2015-16, Victoria<sup>15</sup>, South Australia<sup>16</sup> and Tasmania<sup>17</sup> and the Special Review by the Climate Change

Authority<sup>18</sup> (CCA). We pointed out in our submission that the CCA needed to include health impacts in its economic considerations and that the failure to reduce emissions urgently would lead to an escalation in the cost of climate change. In the submissions to state governments the importance of a whole of government approach to climate change was emphasised.



Professor Nicholas Tally President RACP and Dr Helen Redmond

# Renewable energy

Our briefings on the health imperatives of climate change always include reference to the solution, ie. the rapid transition to renewable energy as a vital public health measure. Climate change and its human health impacts have as the main cause the burning of fossil fuels and renewable energy is the specific cure.

Our commitments to recommending this cure were evident in our submission to Victoria's Renewable Energy Roadmap, September 2015<sup>19</sup> which details the health and economic benefits; transition to renewable energy; reducing barriers to distribution and storage; job creation; and encouraging household and community generation and job creation.

DEA has also made a decision to make submissions in support of local wind farm developments when community support is requested, for example the Biala Wind Farm Project<sup>20</sup> and the Rye Park Wind Farm Project<sup>21</sup>, as well as participate in community forums on renewable energy e.g. Solar Citizens Wentworth community forum<sup>22</sup>.

# Air quality and pollution

The role of DEA is to educate about the profound health implications of air pollution and to work for clean air by encouraging governments to improve air quality standards.

There are an estimated 3,000 deaths due to urban air pollution annually – more than double the national road toll - with an estimated 1,590 deaths per year in the cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth attributable to long-term exposure to fine particulate pollution. Combustion of fossil fuels in coal fired power stations and vehicular transport are the two major sources of air pollutants.

## Participation in the National Air Pollution Summit

This was convened by Environmental Justice Australia. The Fairfax press covered the

summit and featured Dr Ewald and DEA<sup>23</sup>. The meeting discussed air pollution hotspots in communities suffering the brunt of air pollution that is poorly regulated and increasing year by year; particle pollution from coal mines which has doubled in the last five years and trebled in the last ten; toxic emissions from power stations and fracking concerns in many communities; outdated emission standards for wood heaters and motor vehicles; and the strong case for much stricter national ambient air pollution standards.

## The National Clean Air Agreement

At COAG in December 2015 federal and state environment ministers reviewed national air quality standards. In preparation DEA made a submission<sup>24</sup> (no. 299) and interacted with state Environment Protection Agencies (EPAs) and ministers.

For the first time ministers agreed to establish an annual average standard for PM<sub>10</sub> particles of 25µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Prior to this there was only a daily standard. Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory will set, and South Australia will consider setting, a more stringent annual average PM<sub>10</sub> standard of 20µg/m<sup>3</sup> which is in line with the position DEA was seeking for the whole country - see the Communiqué<sup>25</sup>. The ministers also ratified, as a reporting standard, fine particle limits that had previously only been advisory.

## Initiatives in Newcastle

Much of our activity on air quality has focussed in Newcastle NSW, because of air pollution from mining in the Hunter and coal loaders in Newcastle. At an education weekend for Newcastle GPs, DEA members Ben Ewald and John Van Der Kallen spoke



about the results of one year of local air quality monitoring, and subsequently 28 doctors signed a letter to NSW health and environment ministers expressing disappointment at the failure to implement the proposed changes to national air quality standards for particulate air pollution. These local doctors created media stories on air pollution in the run up to the December COAG meeting.

An article *Air pollution is like smoking a cigarette each day, doctors warn*<sup>26</sup> lit the fuse and was published in The Sydney Morning Herald, Brisbane Times, Huffington Post and was followed by the Newcastle Herald, Medical Observer and others.

## Continuing interaction with state ministers and EPAs

After the air quality decision of the environment ministers at COAG, DEA commenced an initiative to work closely with the state EPAs as a means of accessing and influencing the view of the state ministers. Meetings have been held in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

The issue of particulate emissions from around the cruise ship terminal in White Bay, Sydney caused public outcry. New regulations were introduced forcing cruise ships to burn clean low sulphur fuel while in port, rather than the cheap and dirty bunker fuel that can contain up to 3.5% sulphur. The use of diesel fuels in Newcastle harbour was discussed with the state Labor member of parliament and then raised with the minister.

**THE STAR** 

Monday December 14, 2015

# Newcastle doctors urge reform over deadly pollution

By MELINDA McMILLAN

Dec. 14, 2015, 12:49 p.m.

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Members of Doctors for the Environment

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# Fossil Fuels

## Coal

### Health aspects of the mining and combustion of coal

The Lancet Commission report on *Health and Climate* released in June 2015 calling for a phase out of coal from the global energy mix assisted DEA's quest to educate Australian governments about this pressing public health issue.

We accept the scientific position that around 80% of fossil fuel reserves must be kept in the ground if the planet is to have a reasonable (75%) chance of keeping the average annual global temperature below 2°C from pre-industrial levels.

That means no more than an additional 600 Giga tonnes of emissions globally. At the current rate of burning fossil fuels, this could be reached in 12 years or less.

The Secretary-General of the OECD, Angel Gurría<sup>27</sup>, said "the scale of new investments in "unabated" coal-fired electricity posed the most urgent threat to the Earth's climate"<sup>28,29</sup> and that "governments should rethink the role of coal in energy supply and conduct a more rigorous evaluation of its true

costs"<sup>30,31,32</sup> See DEA's fact sheet *The human health tolls of coal*<sup>33</sup>.

The WorldBank<sup>34</sup>, which had already stopped funding new coal projects except in 'rare circumstances', said coal was no cure for global poverty, rejecting an argument used by industry for building new fossil fuel projects in developing countries. "In general globally we need to wean ourselves off coal. There is a huge social cost to coal and a huge social cost to fossil fuels ... if you want to be able to breathe clean air."

In Australia, Oxfam released<sup>35</sup> a report *Powering Up Against Poverty*<sup>36</sup> which said fossil fuels cause numerous health problems (via air pollution and climate change) and are inefficient in delivering electricity to the world's poor compared with renewable energy. Decentralised energy systems, such as solar, can be deployed more quickly and cheaply than coal, when its cost to the climate and health are factored in.

Despite DEA's meetings with federal Labor MPs across the country, Labor resisted any commitment to winding back support for coal in their *Draft National Platform*<sup>37</sup>. DEA responded with a detailed response to the Platform report in which we expressed

disappointment with Labor's support for the continuation of subsidies in the face of IMF forecasts that Australia would, in 2015, subsidise coal, petroleum and gas consumption to the tune of \$41bn (equivalent to nearly 2% of Australia's GDP).

In our view, irresponsibility on health was displayed by the Mineral Council of Australia's advert espousing the qualities of coal. DEA responded with George Crisp publishing, *Old King Coal Is A Desperate Old Soul*<sup>38</sup> in the *Huffington Post Australia*. Thereafter the NSW Mineral Council promoted the virtues of coal, and their unethical attitude was highlighted by DEA in a Comment article in the SMH<sup>39</sup> and The Age<sup>40</sup>.

In November 2015 DEA partnered The Australia Institute and Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) in an Open letter to President Hollande and World Leaders 'No new Coal Mines' drawing attention to the plight of island nations from sea level rise. The letter, as a full page advert in the SMH, highlighted the health impact of coal and DEA was represented by the first 4 signatories of 61 distinguished members of the community.

During May 2016 Peter Brooks represented DEA and spoke on the health perspective of coal at

a press conference<sup>41</sup> held at Parliament House Canberra to ask Treasurer Scott Morrison to stop tax breaks for the fossil fuel industry. The event was organised by 350.org and WWF. April saw DEA meet with Minister Frydenberg, who was then Minister for Resources and Energy, to discuss the transition from coal. The significant points for debate were the rate of transition and the Ministers contention that coal was necessary to bring developing nations, particularly India out of poverty.

## Health and Coal in NSW

New coal mines continued to be approved by the NSW government. The proposed Warkworth extension will bring an open cut pit to within 2km of the historic town of Bulga, a distance that exposes the residents to the risk of blast plumes arising from mine explosions; 33 containing dangerous levels of nitrogen dioxide for there are documented cases of mine workers 3km and even 5km from blast sites being affected. DEA's submission therefore opposed this development on health grounds<sup>42</sup> and DEA spoke out against the proposal at the subsequent PAC meeting because of blast plumes and air quality.

DEA also opposed the Rix Creek mine expansion because it was inconsistent with the protection of the health of people living in Singleton and Camberwell due to increased exposure to particulates in the PM<sub>10</sub> class,

and the risks from blast plumes.<sup>43</sup>

In July 2015 DEA opposed the approval of the Newcastle coal loader at a planning Advisory meeting and an article on the air pollution was published in the Newcastle Herald<sup>44</sup>.

## Health and coal in Victoria

On 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016, DEA joined with Healthy Futures and CAHA in presenting an open letter and petition to the Premier's department on the steps of Parliament House.<sup>45</sup> The petition called for early closure of



Image courtesy of Keir Williams

Hazelwood, the most carbon- and water-intensive coal-fired power station in Victoria. While the petition was cordially received by the department and gained considerable media attention, there was no apparent positive outcome in subsequent months.

The need to close down Hazelwood has been one of DEA's major thrusts in submissions to the several Inquiries established by the Victorian government over the last 2 years. These include our submission to the second Inquiry into the Hazelwood coal-mine fire<sup>46</sup>, and to Victoria's Renewable Energy Roadmap and

Review of the Climate Change Act<sup>47</sup>.

## Health and coal in other states

In South Australia, DEA completed 5 years of briefing the community and elected representatives on the health harms of coal fired power stations in Port Augusta and the power stations have finally been closed. Although the 5 years had also been spent on explaining the need for solar thermal development<sup>48</sup>, only in 2016 did the state government recognise publicly the job deficit in Port Augusta. In a letter to DEA, the Premier Jay Weatherill said *"Thank you for your important advocacy for renewable energy the decarbonisation of our electricity supply"*. DEA also remained active at the federal level with the solar thermal development at Port Augusta raised with several ministers and in a letter to the Prime Minister Mr Turnbull.

In Queensland we continue to be concerned about the health impacts of the Acland mine and proposed extension. We consider that expansion of the mine, from the existing 5.2 million tonnes of coal to 7.5 million tonnes per year by 2029, will worsen air pollution and destroy rich agricultural land and precious groundwater with an increase in ill health including mental health conditions. A member of DEA has acted on behalf of community groups in the Queensland Land Court to explain our concerns.



# Unconventional gas

Unconventional gas continues to be a subject of frequent and distressing concerns. Numerous community events have received the support of DEA members, both informally and as official contributors to public forums. As in previous years, DEA has made a number of submissions to parliamentary inquiries both at state and national levels. Some gains are being made by this concerted action: health concerns are more frequently being recognised and discussed in the media and by politicians. Unfortunately, challenges continue and our activities in this next year (2016-2017) will need to include action on the appalling practice of *in situ coal gasification* – the setting fire to our earth – which is being trialled even in South Australia, our model ‘renewables state’.

In South Australia, DEA tendered a submission and was interviewed by the Committee of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Unconventional gas (Fracking) early in 2015. On 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015, Melissa Haswell gave further evidence on behalf of DEA to a meeting organised for the SA Parliamentary Inquiry by local farmer, David Smith. The meeting included unconventional gas experts, members of the SA Parliament Natural Resources Committee and local farmers. Melissa Haswell had just returned from the USA regions of unconventional gas production and her appearance before the committee stirred much local media interest.



In Victoria the Government's Inquiry into Unconventional Gas concluded in early September after receiving over 1,600 submissions including from DEA<sup>49</sup>. Following its written submission to the Inquiry, DEA was invited to give a verbal presentation; John Iser and Liz Bashford appeared before the committee. Jo McCubbin also presented to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry in Sale, July 1st 2015.<sup>50</sup> Although the Inquiry's final report was unable to reach a majority decision as to whether to extend a moratorium on the unconventional gas industry in Victoria, the report did make significant recommendations about safety precautions, including concerns about human health impacts.<sup>51</sup>

In the Northern Territory, DEA made a submission on the Terms of Reference for the NT Link Project. This pipeline will open up development for UG development in NT by delivering gas to the Eastern states.<sup>52</sup>

Nationally, DEA provided a submission<sup>53</sup> to the Senate Committee on Unconventional Gas (also known as the Bender Inquiry). Following this submission, on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2016, Marion Carey and John Willoughby appeared by teleconference before the Senate Committee in Darwin, extending the evidence of the prior submission. The Bender Inquiry interim report<sup>54</sup> echoes many of DEA's long-standing recommendations.

Many talks were presented to various groups around the country including:

- Marion Carey presented "*Unconventional gas, the environmental determinants of health and public health advocacy*" to the Population Health Congress, Hobart, Sept 2015.

- During the period of this report Dr Merryn Redenbach presented to numerous community forums addressing: *Health concerns associated with the Unconventional Gas industry.*
- At the Limestone Coast Protection Alliance local committee meeting in Mt Gambier John

Willoughby conducted an open forum on *The health impacts of unconventional gas*, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2015.

- Dr Marion Carey presented to iDEA, Brisbane, April, 2016, "*Why is unconventional gas a health issue?*"

## Divestment

### Investing in Health

This year DEA worked with the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) to develop a major report<sup>55</sup> on fossil fuel divestment aimed squarely at the health sector. The report urges Australia's 600,000 plus health workers and their organisations including health superannuation funds to divest from coal, gas, and oil because of the serious harms fossil fuels pose to human health. The report provides a summary of the health impacts of fossil fuels, and a clear argument for removing the (usually unwitting) financial support health workers may be giving to the fossil fuel industry through their banking or superannuation investments.

The president of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Laureate Professor Nicholas Talley wrote the



foreword for the report which was launched on 17 April 2016 at the annual DEA conference, iDEA16, in Brisbane by CAHA Vice President Dr Peter Sainsbury, DEA's spokesperson Dr Helen Redmond and the RACP's Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine President-Elect Professor Lynne Madden.

The report is designed to be circulated widely as a resource for individuals to participate in

divestment, and as a talking point for colleagues and organisations and visits to health superannuation funds. The report is being used as a tool in the advocacy work of DEA; for example, a copy was delivered to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's office when DEA visited him during the election campaign in June 2016. It is freely available to download from the DEA website for non-members and other health organisations.

## The final closure of DEA's BankSA accounts



Since its incorporation in 2001 DEA has banked solely with the BankSA; a subsidiary of Westpac. On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 DEA visited BankSA to close its accounts; because Westpac like the other major banks continued to have new and major investments in fossil fuels, despite publicly committing to a maximum of 2°C of warming.

It was the final step in a divestment journey for DEA which began a year or more previously.

A letter was delivered to the bank, detailing the reasons why a medical organisation would take this step.

Points included:

- Divestment action has in the past been successfully used to tackle threats to human wellbeing. For example, divestment from the tobacco industry put its harmful effects clearly on the social and political agenda.
- The health threats of fossil fuels are even more significant. They are the greatest driver of climate change, which has been described as the defining health issue of the 21st century.
- Ongoing funding of the fossil fuel sector will make it impossible to achieve the targets set out at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, the result of which will be devastating for humanity.

During the year DEA continued to encourage members to join in divestment activities. Student members continued to be active in campus divestment activities at many universities and DEA continues to make official representations to other medical organisations including specialist colleges, the AMA and health industry superannuation funds.



# Biodiversity and natural ecosystems

The Forests and Biodiversity committee with Dimity Williams as convenor works to share our passion for nature by highlighting the inter-relationship between our health and natural ecosystems. We do this by writing in medical and other publications, creating resources on biodiversity and health for DEA members and presenting at conferences. We also actively collaborate with other organisations who seek to highlight the value of nature for wellbeing.



The committee's work this year includes:

- Submission to the Victorian Government's 'Protecting Victoria's Biodiversity 2035 Report'.<sup>56</sup>
- Presenting a session at iDEA 2016 on Nature and Wellbeing. The aim of this session was to update DEA members and conference delegates on the benefits of time spent in nature for our patients' physical and mental health and for our own self-care as physicians and medical students.
- Writing on the value of time in nature for children for parenting website bubhub. This site has some 35,000 subscribers, so here's hoping that parents reading it will be inspired to make the time to get their families outside into nature, learn to love it and work to protect it.<sup>57</sup>
- Contribution to Cool Australia's Nature Play online professional development course outlining the value of time out in nature for children and adolescents.
- Presentation at a professional development forum for Eastern Alliance for Sustainable Learning in Victoria, on nature play for children. This was an opportunity to raise awareness of DEA in the sustainability education sphere.

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# Greening healthcare

Specific work and initiatives were highlighted at iDEA 2016, where Forbes McGain delivered lectures *Sustainability in Practice Design and Organisation* with Dr Paul Angel at the GP workshop, and *Greening Hospitals* along with Chris Hill, the Brisbane Mater Health Services Director of Environmental Sustainability.

DEA continued to work on a 'Sustainable Healthcare Unit' proposal and a 'Health Sector Sustainability Position Paper' with both expected to be finalised by the end of 2016.

DEA members in many states continue to be active in facilitating and implementing changes within their workplaces in an effort to counter the environmental footprint of our healthcare system.

In South Australia members commenced discussions with representatives from SA Health and the Office of Green Industries SA to explore opportunities for improved hospital waste management and recycling. The new Royal Adelaide Hospital, due

to open in 2017, presents a particular opportunity for improved sustainability and the establishment of robust systems to increase efficiency and reduce waste; DEA members plan to monitor this closely.

Encouragement of 'green hospitals and practices' in regions outside Adelaide was facilitated by recruitment of new DEA members from rural areas of SA.

In NSW The Sydney Children's Hospital Network (Children's hospital at Westmead and Sydney Children's Hospital) set up a sustainability working group, driven by DEA members and supported by the CEO. They are working towards an open space to encourage engagement from all levels of staff to improve environmental sustainability within the hospital.

Tasmanian members worked towards improving hospital waste management, including the introduction of recycling hospital waste.



Healthy planet, healthy people

# Our people - Our role - Education

Our organisation is one of medical doctors and students who dedicate voluntary time to addressing the health aspects and ramifications of climate change and environmental degradation.

We define and present the science and medicine of our educational remit in Policy and Submissions to parliaments and other governance systems. We educate our colleagues and the community with fact sheets, reports and articles in the media.

In relation to elected representatives, our educational input is provided in briefing papers prior to meetings at which we illustrate and explain sometimes difficult concepts. Such visits to members of parliament, ministers and their shadows are carried out by small teams, reflecting the broad nature of the profession and medical students.

Our factual case to protect the health of a community is sometimes seen as a brake on development by governments intent on promoting a resource development.

These issues were examined in 2015 by a Parliamentary committee into the tax deductible status of organisations on the National Register of Environmental Organisations, the intent being to clip the wings of Non-Government Organisations seen to be delaying government intent. Our submission to the Committee was reported in the 2014-5 Annual report.<sup>58</sup> In September 2015 our Representatives Professor Kingsley Faulkner and Dr Hakan Yaman appeared before the Committee and presented our position.

The Report of the House of Representatives Committee undertaking the Inquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations was tabled in May 2016.<sup>59</sup> Of most concern is a recommendation that no less than 25% of donations to environmental organisations be spent on environmental remediation work. Such work includes 'revegetation, wildlife rehabilitation, plant and animal pest control and land management.' Whilst such activities are important, also essential is the contribution made by groups that address the underlying causative issues of environmental degradation and

not just act at the end point. This recommendation displays a profound lack of understanding of contemporary environmental issues and of the variety of ways different groups make their contribution.

The review gave undue consideration to industry opinion such as The Queensland Resources Council which submitted that a proportion of activities and expenditure of environmental groups be directed towards 'genuine on-ground environmental work'. This was at the expense of the overwhelming majority of submissions that emphasised the role of education and advocacy.

If passed, this would strip away the tax deductibility status of groups such as DEA and the Environmental Defenders Office. This would be devastating to our ability to defend what is precious to us and an attack on our healthy civil democracy and must be opposed. DEA will lobby against the recommendations alongside the vast majority of Australian environmental movement.



# Submissions

## **Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria, July 2015**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Unconventional Gas - VIC submission 07-15.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Unconventional_Gas_-_VIC_submission_07-15.pdf)

## **Submission to the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission, July 2015**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Nuclear Fuel Cycle submission 07-15.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Nuclear_Fuel_Cycle_submission_07-15.pdf)

## **Review of the Climate Change Act 2010, August 2015**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Review of the Climate Change Act - VIC 08-15.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Review_of_the_Climate_Change_Act_-_VIC_08-15.pdf)

## **Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire Inquiry, August 2015**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire Inquiry submission 08-15.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Hazelwood_Coal_Mine_Fire_Inquiry_submission_08-15.pdf)

## **Victoria's Renewable Energy Roadmap, September 2015**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/VIC Renewable Energy Roadmap submission 09-15.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/VIC_Renewable_Energy_Roadmap_submission_09-15.pdf)

## **Submission on the NT Link Project: Terms of reference, September 2015**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/NT Link Project TOR submission 09-15.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/NT_Link_Project_TOR_submission_09-15.pdf)

## **Independent Inquiry into the EPA Victoria, October 2015**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/EPA Victoria submission 10-15.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/EPA_Victoria_submission_10-15.pdf)

## **Developing a New Climate Change Strategy for South Australia, October 2015**

[http://dea.org.au/images/general/SA government climate change submission 10-15.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/general/SA_government_climate_change_submission_10-15.pdf)

## **Biala Wind Farm Project submission, October 2015**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Biala NSW Wind Farm Submission 10-15.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Biala_NSW_Wind_Farm_Submission_10-15.pdf)

## **Submission on the Rix's Creek Continuation Project, December 2015**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Rixs Continuation submission 12-15.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Rixs_Continuation_submission_12-15.pdf)

## **Submission on the Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016, January 2016**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/SA Air Quality Policy 2016 submission 01-16 .pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/SA_Air_Quality_Policy_2016_submission_01-16_.pdf)

## **Submission on the Draft Report on Australia's climate policy options, February 2016**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Australias climate policy options submission 02-16.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Australias_climate_policy_options_submission_02-16.pdf)

## **Embracing the climate challenge: Tasmania's draft climate change action plan 2016-2021, March 2016**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/TAS draft climate change action plan 2016-2021 submission 03-16.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/TAS_draft_climate_change_action_plan_2016-2021_submission_03-16.pdf)

## **Submission to the Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining, March 2016**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Select Committee on UG Mining Submission 03-16.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Select_Committee_on_UG_Mining_Submission_03-16.pdf)

## **Submission on the Vehicle Emissions Discussion Paper, April 2016**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Vehicle Emissions Discussion Paper submission 04-16.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Vehicle_Emissions_Discussion_Paper_submission_04-16.pdf)

## **Submission on the Northern Territory Petroleum (Environment) Regulations, April 2016**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/NT Petroleum Environment Regulations submission 04-16.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/NT_Petroleum_Environment_Regulations_submission_04-16.pdf)

## **Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2036, May 2016**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Protecting Victorias Environment - Biodiversity 2036 Submission 05-16.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Protecting_Victorias_Environment_-_Biodiversity_2036_Submission_05-16.pdf)

## **Victorian government stakeholder engagement strategy submission, May 2016**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Earth Resources Regulation Victoria Submission 05-16.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/Earth_Resources_Regulation_Victoria_Submission_05-16.pdf)

## **Rye Park Wind Farm Project submission, June 2016**

[http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/NSW Rye Park Wind Farm Project Submission 06-16.pdf](http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/NSW_Rye_Park_Wind_Farm_Project_Submission_06-16.pdf)

# Management Committee 2015-2016

The following committee members were elected on or after October 16, 2015

Professor Kingsley Faulkner – Chair  
Professor David Shearman – Secretary  
Dr Hakan Yaman – Treasurer  
Dr Eugenie Kayak (VIC)  
Dr Peter Brooks (VIC)  
Dr Rohan Church (TAS)  
Dr George Crisp (WA)  
Kate Wheldrake – Student Representative  
Dr David King (QLD)  
Dr John Willoughby (SA)  
Dr Helen Redmond (NSW)  
Dr Sujata Allen (NSW)

Corresponding members:

Dr Kristen Pearson  
Dr John Van Der Kallen  
Dr Marion Carey  
Dr Dimity Williams  
Dr Zoe Ling  
Declan Scragg – Student Representative Elect

Ex-officio:

Sallie Forrest – Policy and Advocacy Officer  
Carmela Ferraro – Media and Communications Officer  
Joy Oddy – Administration Officer

# Scientific Advisory Committee 2015-2016

We are fortunate to have the support of a Scientific Advisory Committee consisting of eminent doctors and scientists and we thank them for their advice and contributions throughout the year.

The members of this committee are:

Professor Stephen Boyden AM	Professor Peter Doherty AC
Professor David Griggs	Professor Michael Kidd AM
Professor David de Kretser AC	Professor Stephen Leeder AO
Professor Ian Lowe AO	Professor Robyn McDermott
Professor Lidia Morawska	Professor Peter Newman
Professor Emeritus Sir Gustav Nossal AC	Professor Hugh Possingham
Professor Lawrie Powell AC	Dr Rosemary Stanton OAM
Professor Fiona Stanley AC	Dr Norman Swan

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# Our activity

Our members have organised a number of activities and events as publicity for climate change action, fundraising and healthy living; for example, the Melbourne marathon and the Adelaide social function.

## Melbourne Marathon



DEA again entered an enthusiastic team of 49 runners in the annual Melbourne Marathon Festival to promote a Healthy Planet for Healthy People. From 3km through to the full marathon, Team DEA toughed it out on the track and raised over \$7,000 for DEA.

We had excellent media coverage with many thanks to the support of Carmela Ferraro, DEA's media and communications officer; from VicDoc, to Crikey's health blog Croakey to Wagga's regional paper, a diverse audience heard about DEA's work.

## Dr Jane Lomax Smith guest speaker at Adelaide social function



This year's AGM was held at The Gallery in the heart of Adelaide's CBD. Local hero Dr Jane Lomax-Smith former Lord Mayor of Adelaide and former state education Minister delivered the keynote address '*The role of medical leadership in the public discussion on complex public health issues*'; at our post AGM cocktail evening and our Chair Kingsley Faulkner talked about how to successfully advocate for public health.

A reporter from Croakey picked up that tweet which meant our little event in Adelaide was distributed to 20,000 people! So from a social, educational, promotional and fundraising point of view this event was a success for DEA.

A huge thank you to Eleanor Evans (DEA SA member) and everyone else who helped make the evening such a success.

Healthy planet, healthy people



# iDEA16 Conference – Brisbane



*iDEA16: Protecting our Future* developed the focus of iDEA15 held in Sydney that climate change is an issue of the present. iDEA16 concentrated on providing the tools to address what has been determined the greatest threat to human health of our generation.

The conference began with workshops that covered topics including the ethical dilemmas of overpopulation by Dr Jane O'Sullivan, and effective communication of the myths and misconceptions about climate change by John Cook. The General Practitioner workshop attracted many new practitioners to DEA, as it was an RACGP QI&CPD Program approved workshop (40 Category 1 points). There were many academic highlights in this year's program, beginning with an inspirational video from environmentalist and leader of 350.org, Bill McKibben, and concluding with a reflection on health advocacy from DEA Chair, Kingsley Faulkner. Delegates were moved by Dr Andrew Jeremijenko's presentation about his pursuit to reduce the environment impacts of the Gladstone Harbour. We learned the importance of storytelling in health advocacy

from Dr Eleanor Evans and were shown how it is possible to make advancements to greening your work environment by Dr Forbes McGain, Chris Hill and Peter Kuestler. The panel discussion on 'Steps to a Sustainable Future', featuring senior lecturer at ANU Dr Peter Tait, Greens Senator Larissa Waters, Professor of Philosophy William Grey, founder of FoodConnect Rob Pekin and the co-author of the Declaration of Human Rights and Climate Change Dr Kristy Davies was vibrant and informative.

Our gratitude goes to iDEA16 convenor Beau Frigault, supported by Dr David King and their incredible iDEA16 team, whose hard work over many months made this event such a success.



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# Student members in action

A successful recruitment drive by the National Student Committee representatives in January-February 2016 introduced around 100 new student members to DEA and growth in membership has continued.

The National Student Committee has continued to grow with recruitment of representatives from the Northern Territory and the ACT, to ensure that medical students in both territories have the best opportunity to learn about DEA and our organisation's priorities. Sujata Allen joined the Committee as our mentor and resource person as an important link to the Management Committee and to the broader organisation.

The National Student Committee has held regular monthly Skype meetings to co-ordinate national and state-based activities and events to promote DEA, meet politicians and provide education on the links between health and the environment.

## National events

DEA Students were participants in National Tree Planting Day to offset emissions with events in several states organised by DEA Students. We attended divestment events and explained to medical student societies and universities the scientific basis for divestment; in the federal election we were part of DEA meetings with members of parliament and senators in several states.

We have continued close collaboration with the Australian Medical Students Association (AMSA), and in particular their Code Green project which raises awareness of the links between climate change and health. Together we have worked to increase the teaching of climate change and health in the medical

article about the impact of climate change on young people published by online media site *Women's Agenda*. Ben Bambery's blog about participating in the Melbourne Marathon, titled 'The secret to becoming healthier, happier and more productive' made Open Forum's top 10 of most popular blogs this year.



curriculum and have supported AMSA Code Green representatives in finding speakers and providing support for their events and activities, including their Code Green social media week.

We have also raised awareness of climate change and health through publications and the media. Sarah Cohn 2015 National Student Representative was interviewed by the *Daily Advertiser* about fundraising for DEA in the Melbourne Marathon. Kate Wheldrake 2016 National Student Representative wrote an

DEA students continued to be active in their universities and local communities.

In Victoria we appointed university representatives at all the medical schools, grew each of the groups with very keen students and held social and educational events such as documentary screenings.

In New South Wales at Notre Dame University we held a week-long 'Environment week' dedicated to raising awareness about the health impact of

climate change and a doctor's role in taking action against this. Events included Green Trivia with Dr Ben Ticehurst, Clean Up Australia Day around campus and local parks, and a sustainable BBQ plus a plant sale. We also raised money to donate to Trees for the Future who plants trees on our behalf.

Queensland students played host to the iDEA16 conference in April 2016 and played a major role in its organisation. Our tree planting contribution helped restore the coast of Moreton Island in

partnership with the Moreton Island Conservation Foundation.

In South Australia a collaboration was initiated with the Office of Green Industries SA (supporting Zero Waste SA) to assist in waste reduction in the public health system. To further the profile of DEA at Adelaide University, an article about climate change and health was published in Stimulus last year and student representative Carmen Hayward and two other students presented a well-received discussion on fracking at the 2015 Students of Sustainability

conference held at Flinders University.

In the ACT several student members joined the organisation most notably through the AMSA's Code Green event at which Dr Peter Tait spoke on Climate Change, and through the promotion of DEA activities on campus through the publicity of iDEA16 and by Dr Angus Finlay during orientation week.



# Media and communications

As the only medical organisation solely focused on raising awareness of the link between the environment and human health, we have had a unique voice in the nation's discourse on these and related topics including the expansion of oil, gas and coal production even in the face of the increasing evidence of harm; a sustained attack on renewable energy; Australia's lack lustre performance in setting carbon emissions targets and climate change policies pre and post the COP 21 meeting in Paris; the need for clean air to reduce illness and deaths; divestment from hazardous fossil fuels; and a federal election.

We have been published in the country's leading mastheads- the Sydney Morning Herald, the Age, the Canberra Times - featured on the ABC, and we increased our presence in regional publications across Australia.

We also made international news including Digital Journal, which has millions of monthly visitors, BBC, Common Space and we sparked a feature blog by the European based advocacy group, Healthcare Without Harm.

Because our educational role exposes information critical of

the practices of some major industries, one of our biggest challenges has been getting traction in tabloid and popular media. We had some success getting past the gatekeepers. For example, with a comment piece about heatwaves published in News Corp Australia's, The Advertiser, and we used 'soft' stories to highlight issues of interest to the public such as online parenting magazines.

Communicating our work to our medical colleagues across the health sector has been another major focus. We have had coverage in the AMA's vicdoc and The Medical Republic, an online publication and continue to pursue other opportunities.

Educational publications include a joint DEA and CAHA report, *Investing in Health* which calls on health professionals, colleges and super funds to divest from fossil fuels and a fact sheet, *Climate Change & Health in Australia*. The latter has been shared with Primary Care Networks which have disseminated it widely.

Our impression is that DEA has punched well above its weight. Much of this was due to the willingness of our committed and passionate volunteers to

speak up about compelling issues. Some of our members undertook media training offered pro bono by the Climate Media Centre to increase our pool of talented spokespeople, and many more members have expressed interest in doing similar workshops.

The trend away from traditional masthead publications and towards individuals as curators on social media is changing dramatically the way in which we consume news. Accordingly, we expanded our presence on Facebook and Twitter, finding innovative ways to inform and engage not only doctors, but also the broader public who are eager for quality analysis and up to the minute information on health issues. Our efforts are being rewarded by engaged followers whose numbers are steadily increasing.

DEA's growing presence in both traditional and social media has done much to raise our profile and the work we do. The rise in the number of journalists who contact us for background and comment and organisations who want to engage with us is testament to that.

# Media releases

Doctors warn against approving the T4 coal loader proposal, Dr Ben Ewald, 13 July 2015

<http://dea.org.au/news/article/media-release-doctors-say-a-definite-no-to-the-t4-coal-loader-on-health-gro>

Medics slam the emissions carbon cuts for failing to link the costs of health, Dr Sallie Forrest and Dr George Crisp, 12 August 2015

<http://dea.org.au/news/article/media-release-leading-medics-slam-the-emissions-carbon-cuts-for-failing-to>

Doctors' group praises the AMA's revised policy on climate change and health, Professor Kingsley Faulkner and Dr Helen Redmond, 9 September 2015

<http://dea.org.au/news/article/media-release-doctors-group-praises-the-amas-revised-policy-on-climate-chan>

Doctors urge government to combat high levels of pollution, Dr Ben Ewald and Dr John Van Der Kallen, 13 September 2015

<http://dea.org.au/news/article/media-release-doctors-urge-government-to-combat-high-levels-of-pollution>

Doctors urge Health Minister Ley to attend climate talks, Professor Fiona Stanley, Professor Kingsley Faulkner and Dr Sallie Forrest, 2 November 2015

<http://dea.org.au/news/article/open-letter-put-health-minister-ley-on-the-road-to-paris-to-protect-health>

Doctors extend their sympathies to those affected by the South Australian bushfires, Dr Ingo Weber, 27 November 2015

<http://dea.org.au/news/article/media-release-doctors-extend-their-sympathies-to-those-affected-by-the-sout>

Doctors urge ban on fracking to continue, Dr John Iser, 7 December 2015

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Doctors call on environment ministers to adopt strict air pollution laws, Dr John Van Der Kallen and Dr Ben Ewald, 14 December 2015

<http://dea.org.au/news/article/media-release-doctors-urge-environment-ministers-to-adopt-strict-air-pollut>

Doctors call on the Andrews Government to act urgently on climate law recommendations, Dr John Iser, 12 February 2016

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Failure to include health risks grossly distorts true costs of climate change, warn doctors, Professor Peter Brooks, 19 February 2016

<http://dea.org.au/news/article/failure-to-include-health-risks-grossly-distorts-true-costs-of-climate-chan>

Health practitioners call for imminent phase out of coal-fired power stations, Dr John Iser, A/Professor Grant Blashki, Professor Peter Brooks, 5 April 2016

<http://dea.org.au/news/article/media-release-health-practitioners-call-for-imminent-phase-out-of-coal-fire>

Doctors urge action from federal government to protect health from unconventional gas mining, Dr John Willoughby and Dr Marion Carey, 13 April 2016

<http://dea.org.au/news/article/doctors-urge-action-from-federal-government-to-protect-health-from-unconven>

Launch of joint report urging the health sector to divest, Dr Helen Redmond and Fiona Armstrong, Executive Director of Climate and Health Alliance, 17 April 2016

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<http://dea.org.au/news/article/launch-of-report-urging-health-workers-health-super-funds-and-health-bodies>

Doctors alarmed at new air pollution data call for immediate action, Dr John Van Der Kallen and Dr David Shearman, 18 April 2016

<http://dea.org.au/news/article/doctors-alarmed-at-new-air-pollution-data-call-for-immediate-action>

DEA welcomes the Vic Government's response to the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry, Dr John Iser, 19 April 2016

<http://dea.org.au/news/article/media-release-dea-welcomes-the-vic-governments-response-to-the-hazelwood-mi>

Labor's climate change policy is a step forward but more needs to be done, say doctors, Dr David Shearman and Dr George Crisp, 27 April 2016

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Doctors take a stand against banking giants' support of fossil fuels, Dr Doug Shaw and Dr John Willoughby, 18 May 2016

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DEA congratulates Vic Government's response to the Independent Review on the Climate Change Act, Dr John Iser, 9 June 2016

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Labor's announcement on a national environmental protection authority has big health spin offs, Dr David Shearman, 16 June 2016

<http://dea.org.au/news/article/labors-announcement-on-a-national-environmental-protection-authority-has-bi>

Doctors deliver PM Turnbull Climate Change Survival Health Kit and open letter, Dr Helen Redmond and Dr Sujata Allan, 27 June 2016

<http://dea.org.au/news/article/media-release-doctors-deliver-pm-turnbull-climate-change-survival-health-ki>



# Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report that the financial position of DEA has remained stable over the last year. Our negative equity for 2015-16 financial year was expected and was largely as a result of spending from a previous grant.

As our membership base has expanded over the last decade, so has our revenue. This has allowed us to expand our activity

and effectiveness. This has been documented elsewhere in this report. Our independently audited annual financial statement tabled at the Annual General Meeting will be available as a public document at the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission website (<http://www.acnc.gov.au/>). We welcome any questions that may arise from the report and are confident that your money has

been spent solely to support the guiding mission of DEA. As you would rightly expect, all members of the management committee are volunteers and have no pecuniary interest in DEA finances. All their DEA related expenses are self-funded.

Hakan Yaman, Honorary Treasurer

## Thank you

There are many to thank for their assistance over the last year.

Our hard working staff members have consistently worked well beyond their job description, reflecting their passion for the organisation. These members include Joy Oddy who runs our base office, our media consultant Carmela Ferraro, our administrative assistant Rebecca Osborne and our Policy and Advocacy Officer Sallie Forrest.

Additionally, Mark White of Panama Software and Russell Badenoch from Beanstalk Creative and Production have been generous in their assistance in the development of our new database and the exciting new DEA website. This will serve our future needs well. Our gratitude also extends to Mark Braidwood, a DEA member, who kindly volunteered his time to oversee our website planning and development.

Our deepest gratitude extends also to our accountant Cameron Batterham from Batterham & Associates. He has generously donated his time to independently prepare and audit the DEA Annual Financial Statement. His support for DEA has now continued for over a decade.

Finally, our thanks to all our members for their contribution. Despite significant time constraints, many have

volunteered their time to help preserve what is precious to us all. Others have provided a valuable contribution by simply maintaining their membership and joining our collective voice to educate and advocate on the potentially devastating health effects of damage to our environment.

We look forward to your ongoing support into the future.



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# Publications

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