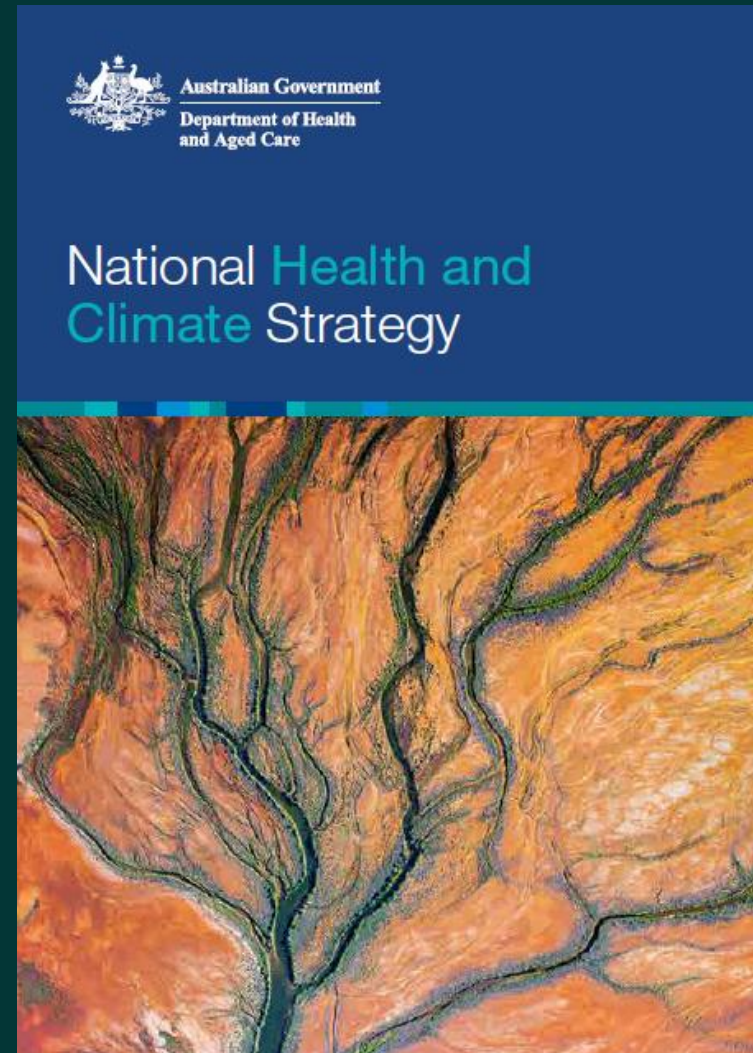


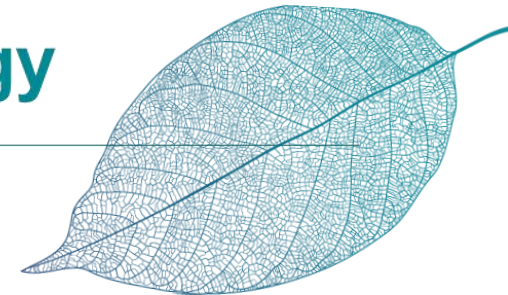
Decarbonising the health system: Australia's first National Health and Climate Strategy

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No conflicts of interest/disclosures to declare

Australia's first National Health and Climate Strategy



National Health and Climate Strategy



NATIONAL HEALTH AND CLIMATE STRATEGY

3.4.4 Health emergency preparedness, response, and recovery

A combination of increased climate-related disasters and severe weather events (such as storms, fire, floods, and drought) can present and worsen health emergencies. These events can have significant direct impacts on health and wellbeing, including injury and mortality, increases in climate-sensitive non-communicable diseases, communicable disease outbreaks, and psychological distress, and to increase demand for health and care services. These events can also change health system performance through impacts on essential services, supply chains, infrastructure, ambulance services, and activities. In this context, proactive, effective, and efficient health emergency planning, preparation, response, and recovery is a necessary response.

The Australian Government is working to reduce:

- Disasters and severe weather events (such as storms, fire, floods, and drought) can present and worsen health emergencies. These events can have significant direct impacts on health and wellbeing, including injury and mortality, increases in climate-sensitive non-communicable diseases, communicable disease outbreaks, and psychological distress, and to increase demand for health and care services. These events can also change health system performance through impacts on essential services, supply chains, infrastructure, ambulance services, and activities. In this context, proactive, effective, and efficient health emergency planning, preparation, response, and recovery is a necessary response.

Case Study 5

Healthy North Coast Primary Health Network Disaster Resilience Hub

Following several challenging years marked by bushfires, the COVID-19 pandemic and devastating floods in the NSW Northern Rivers region, Healthy North Coast Primary Health Network released its Regional Disaster Management Framework and Action Plan in December 2022. The Framework offers guidelines for disaster management, and clearly defines the role that primary health plays in enhancing the region's population health resilience against the impacts of climate change.

Under the Disaster Management Framework, a Disaster Resilience Hub was established to provide health care professionals and community members with access to a suite of resources on readiness, response and recovery. A community-driven, strengths-based initiative, the Hub provides communities to connect with health services in the wake of a disaster. The Hub also provides primary care practitioners with targeted tools to assist with disaster medical management education and post-traumatic stress disorder therapy.

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NATIONAL HEALTH AND CLIMATE STRATEGY

3.4.4 Health emergency preparedness, response, and recovery

Case Study 4

Fire to Flourish – First Nations community-led disaster resilience

Disasters have uniquely local impacts. But everyone will be affected the same way, depending on where they live or what they are. Local communities therefore need to be supported to lead their own recovery efforts.

Established by Monash University after the 2019/2020 bushfires, Fire to Flourish is working with local communities.

ACTION 3.8

Developing a National Health Emergency Response Plan

The Australian Government will work with states and territories to develop an "All-Health" National Health Emergency Response Plan, which will coordinate health emergency response to climate-related disasters and address weather events. This plan will guide and coordinate existing health emergency response plans to provide a single national document to guide Australian responses to, and recovery from, emerging incidents of national significance.

Primary care has a vital role to play in health system preparedness and response to disaster-related disasters. In the immediate aftermath of these disasters, many people's needs for care are focused on primary care, such as being able to access a GP (community health, reproductive healthcare or mental health support). As present, primary care is not systematically integrated into emergency preparedness, response and recovery programs. This means primary care providers, such as GPs, may not be able to provide the best of care and support their patients and communities most before, during and after disasters. In addition, primary care providers are also likely to be affected by the same hazards and risks as the public. The 2009 Hoyle Commission into National Natural Disaster Management recommended that "Australian state and territory governments should develop arrangements that facilitate greater inclusion of primary healthcare providers in disaster management, including representation on relevant disaster committees and plans and providing training, education and other support."

Case Study 1

Epidemic thunderstorm asthma risk forecast

Thunderstorm asthma is a significant public health risk in Australia and is likely to become more frequent and widespread as climate change advances.¹⁴ Thunderstorm asthma events are triggered by an uncommon combination of a certain type of thunderstorm and high grass pollen levels.

In November 2016, Victoria experienced the world's largest epidemic thunderstorm asthma event. Within 30 hours, this resulted in significant public health impacts with 3,305 more respiratory related presentations (a 672% increase) to public hospitals in Melbourne and Geelong, an estimated 476 admissions, 30 intensive care admissions and 10 deaths.^{14,15}

The response to the 2016 event was reviewed by the Inspector General for Emergency Management, which identified the limited ability of emergency services to adequately meet the extraordinary and rapid increase in demand on the health care system.¹⁷ As a result, the Victorian Government implemented the Epidemic Thunderstorm

Asthma Risk Forecasting system, which provides health services, emergency services and communities with information to inform decisions, avoid exposure and know when to practice protective behaviours. Forecasts will enable emergency services to increase staff availability to better meet the anticipated demand and assist on planning and deploying resources. The forecast supports the Victorian health system to prepare for and respond to epidemic thunderstorm asthma events. There are plans to roll out the forecast system to other jurisdictions.

Vision & Objectives



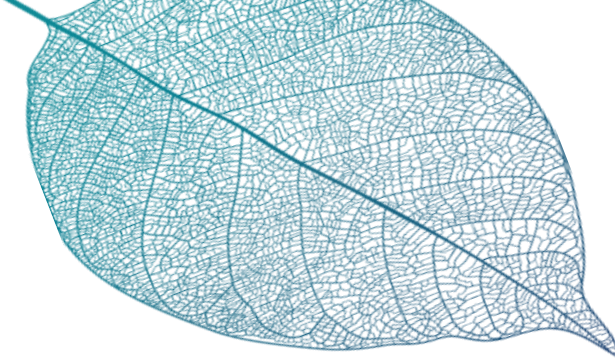
NATIONAL HEALTH AND CLIMATE STRATEGY – VISION STATEMENT

Healthy, climate-resilient communities, and a sustainable, resilient, high-quality, net zero health system.

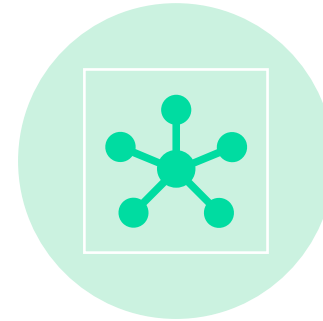
Objectives

1. Health system resilience
2. Health system decarbonisation
3. International collaboration
4. Health in all policies

Strategy Enablers



Enabler 1: Workforce, Leadership and Training



Enabler 2: Research and Innovation



Enabler 3: Communication and Engagement



Enabler 4: Collaboration and Governance

Principles of Sustainable Healthcare



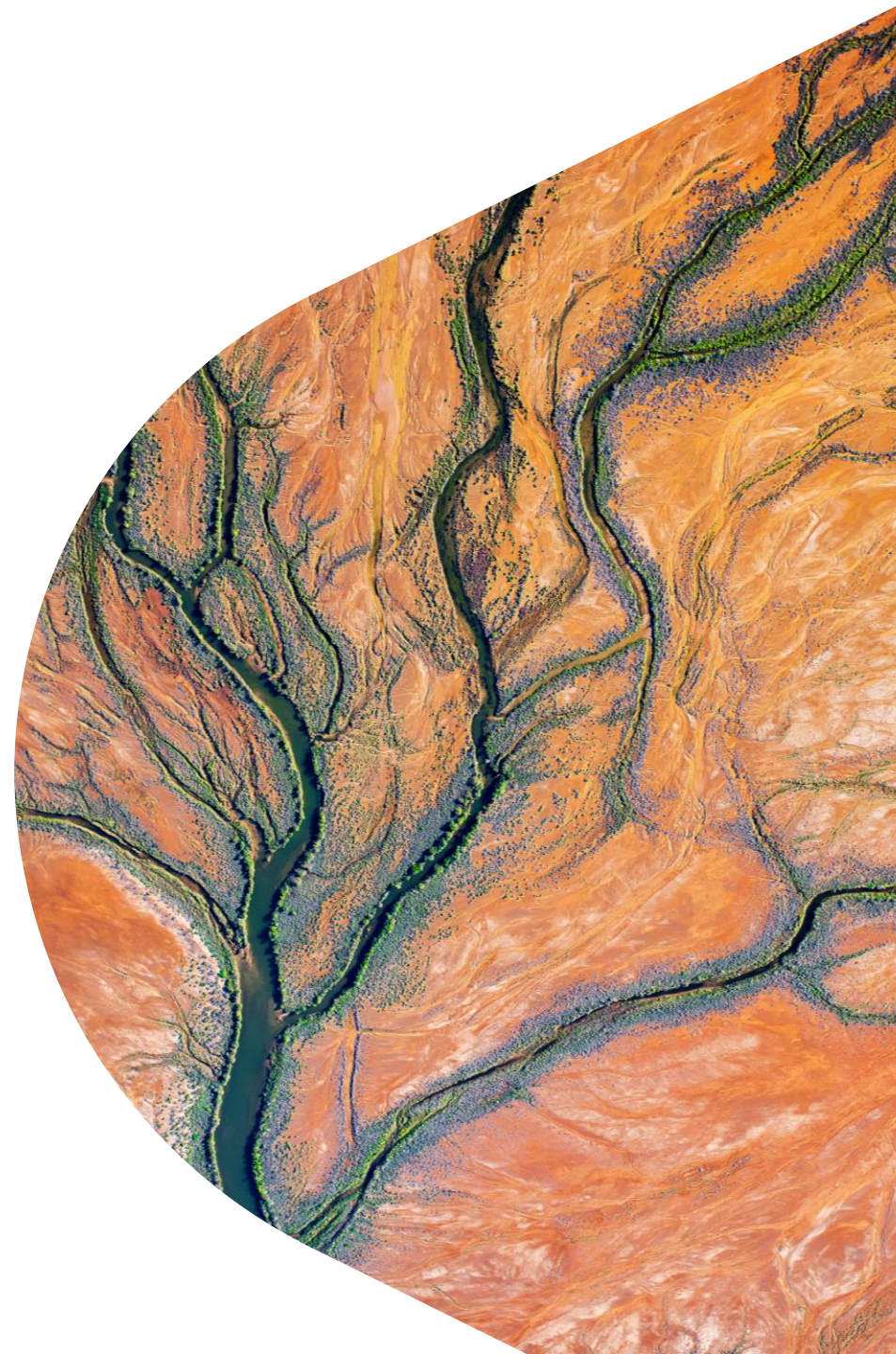
1. Keep people healthy, well & independent



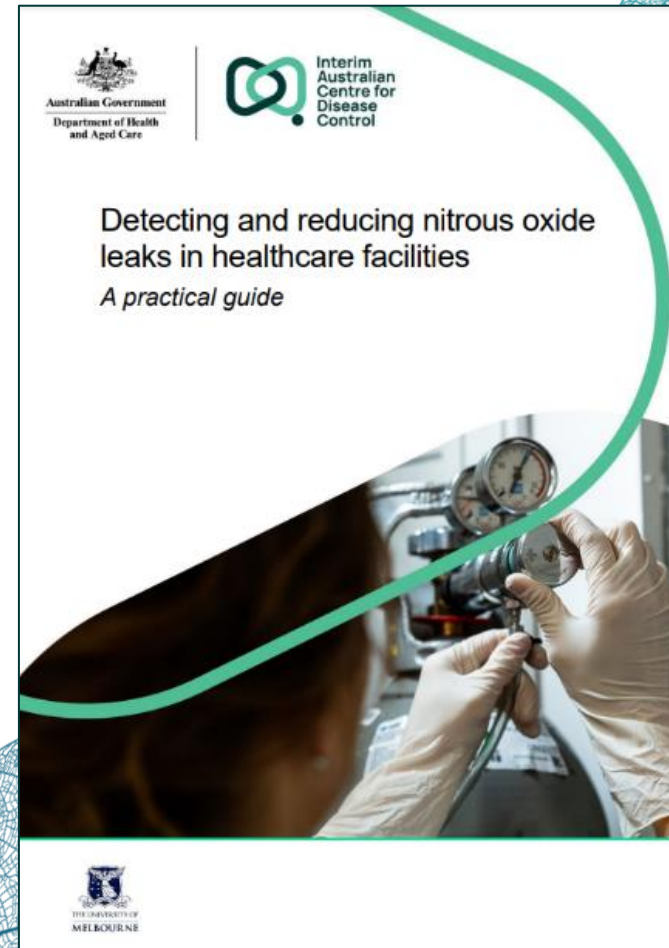
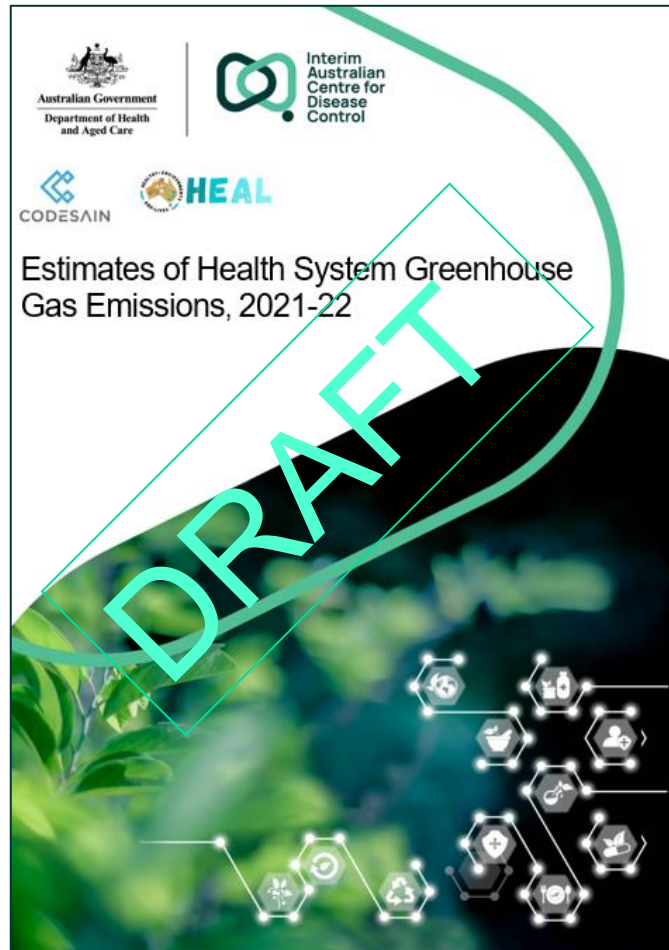
2. Minimise low-value and harmful care



3. Decarbonise high-value care



Managing Health System Emissions



Piloting Sustainability and Climate Resilience Standards for Health Services

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION
ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience Healthcare Module

DRAFT VERSION

November 2023

D23-51832

Consumer statement

My health service recognises, plans for, and mitigates the effects of climate change events to ensure the continuity, safety, and quality of my health care.

Comprised of 5 Key Actions & 15 Sub-Actions



Joint Statement on Climate Change and Health



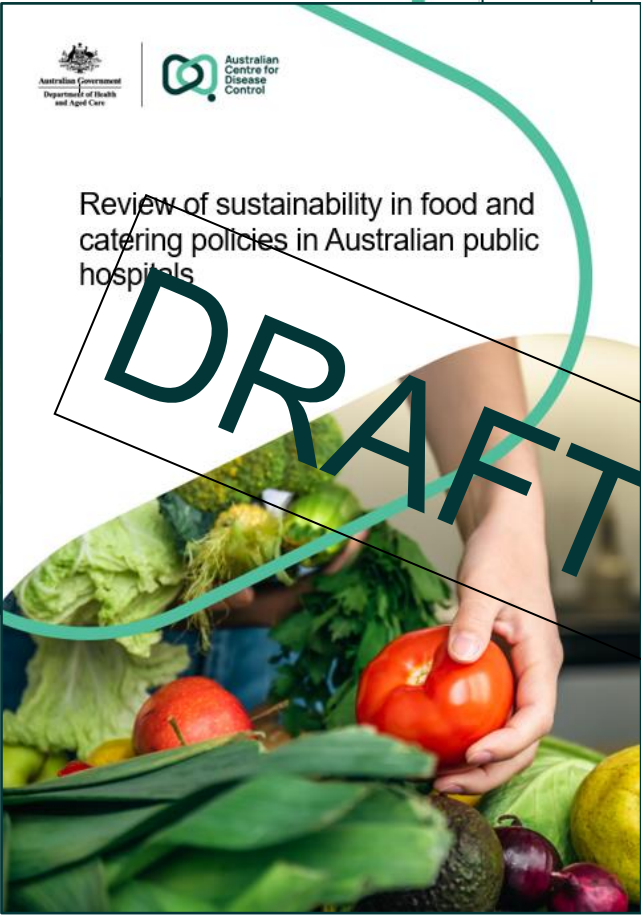
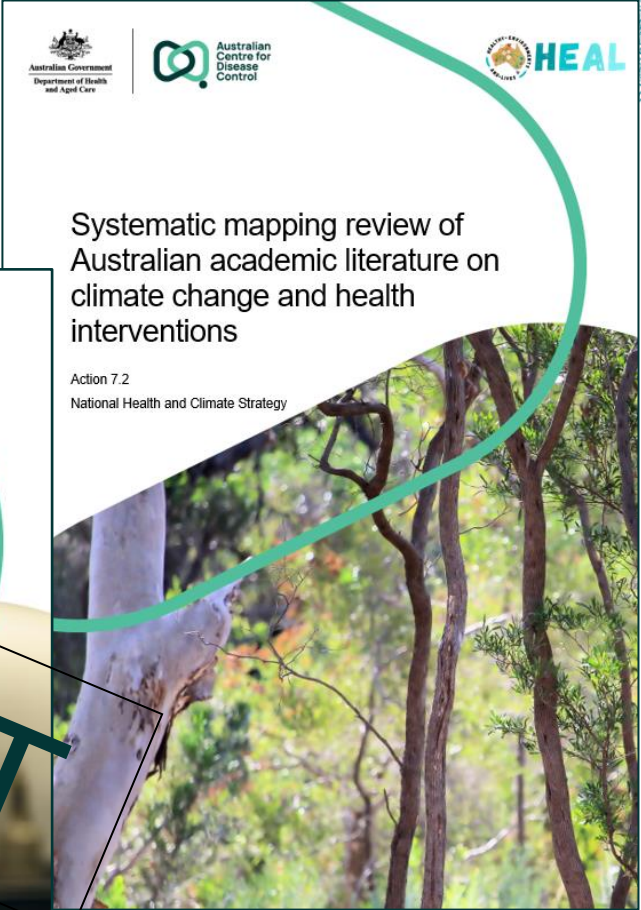
- Develop low-emissions models of care, including actions to improve care, minimise wasteful health care and involve patients in decisions about appropriate care
- Mobilise and support the health workforce to lead the health system response to climate change




Research to Inform Action on Climate and Health

We have worked in partnership with researchers to produce reports on:

- 1. Waste
- 2. Food
- 3. Research



Collaborating Internationally to Decarbonise Medicines and Supply Chains



Ministers
Department of Health and Aged Care

Home Media centre Mark Butler Anika Wells Ged Kearney Emma McBride Malarndirri McCarthy

Home > [The Hon Ged Kearney MP](#) > [Assistant Minister Kearney's media](#)

Australia joins US and UK statement on decarbonising healthcare

On Earth Day 2024, the Australian Government signed a public statement of collaboration with the United States and United Kingdom to decarbonise healthcare supply chains.

Media event date: 23 April 2024
Date published: 23 April 2024
Media type: Media release
Audience: General public

On Earth Day 2024, the Albanese Labor Government signed a public statement of collaboration with the United States and United Kingdom to decarbonise healthcare supply chains.

The health system is currently responsible for around 5 per cent of Australia's carbon emissions. Many medicines and health technologies used in Australia are imported from overseas. It is estimated that these global supply chains account for around 75 per cent of the Australian health sector's carbon footprint.

Following the release of the [National Health and Climate Strategy](#) at the 28th United Nations Climate Conference (COP28) in Dubai in 2023, Australia is signing a public statement of collaboration to align healthcare procurement requirements and accelerate the decarbonisation of global healthcare supply chains.



PAS 2090 – Pharmaceutical products: Product category rules for environmental lifecycle assessments – Standard coming soon

Join the Hub now





MISSION

Advancing infection prevention and control across Australasia

VISION

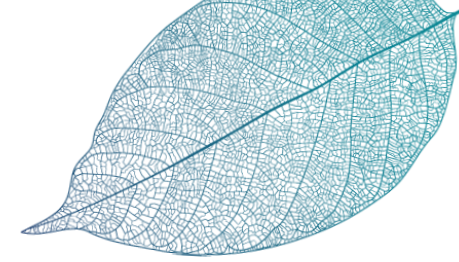
To reduce the burden of infection

VALUES

- Integrity
- Openness
- Ethics
- Collegiality



Thank You and Well Done!



Australasian College
for Infection Prevention and Control

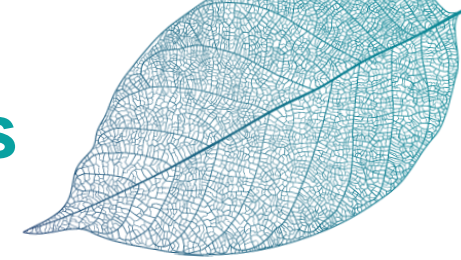


REUSABLE SURGICAL GOWNS POSITION STATEMENT

Reusable sterile surgical gowns are safe, effective, and have a lower environmental impact than disposable gowns



Sustainability Work Led By Health Facilities

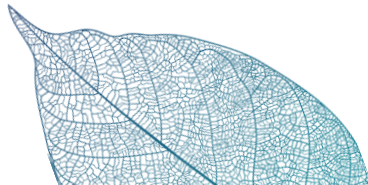


Reusable gowns and drapes at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Victoria

The Gloves Off campaign by John Hunter Hospital in NSW



Prepared by:
Gloves Off Team
John Hunter Hospital
Hunter New England Local Health District



What can the infection, prevention and control community do to support the implementation of the National Health and Climate Strategy?

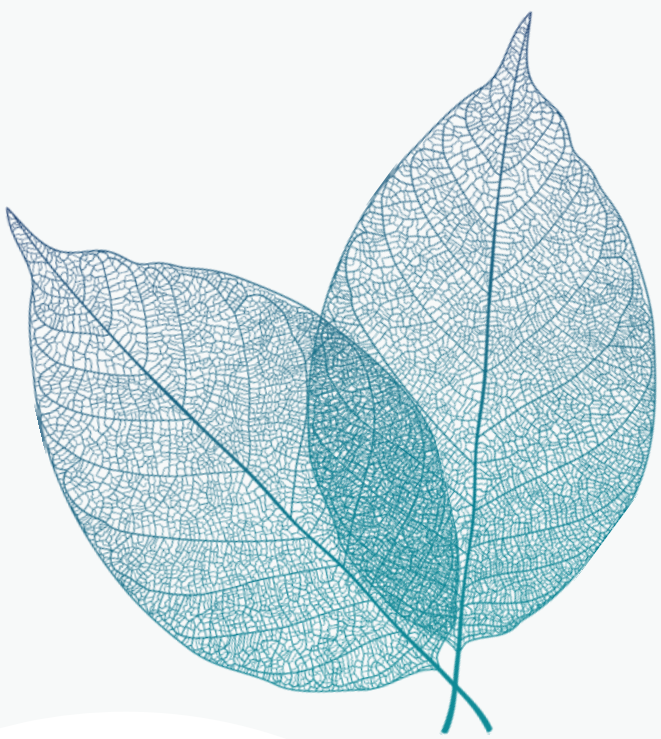
Critically appraise the evidence base behind existing infection prevention policies and procedures to minimise low value care and associated waste generation.

Be part of the emergency planning, preparedness and response

Demonstrate climate and sustainability leadership in your workplaces

Work together with other disciplines and other colleges

Develop and participate in education and training



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Thank you!
