

## **ALMA CLIMATE ADVOCACY GROUP**

ALMA is a network of Australian and New Zealand lesbian and same-sex attracted female doctors urgently concerned about the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

ALMA is urgently concerned about the Climate and Ecological Emergency and has a Climate Action Group. The science is clear. The Climate and Ecological Crisis is the biggest public health emergency facing humankind today. ALMA calls on the Australian and New Zealand Governments for a bipartisan approach to address the Crisis.

Environmental degradation is accelerating changes to our world faster than previously predicted. Human health on a global scale is already being impacted by environmental destruction via direct effects from increased heatwaves, floods, sea level rises resulting in loss of low-lying islands, severe storms, bushfires and cyclones.

The Climate and Ecological Emergency will continue to worsen the health of all humans indirectly, via increased air pollution contributing to allergic disease such as asthma, increased infectious diseases such as malaria and gastroenteritis, reduced food and water availability resulting in under-nutrition, as well as poorer mental health from the effects of trauma related to extreme weather events. Extreme weather events and sea level rises will also result in large numbers of climate refugees, who will be displaced from their homes and result in significant impacts on their physical and mental health.

The Australian and New Zealand Governments must act now to minimise effects on human health, by keeping all remaining fossil fuels in the ground and urgently transitioning to renewable energy, as well as protecting the world's forests and marine environments and reducing air pollution from transport, agricultural and other industries. By reducing greenhouse gas emissions and halting biodiversity loss, all humans will experience direct beneficial effects on human health by improving access to food, water, clean air and improved mental health.

The ALMA Climate Group meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month 7-8pm AEST via Zoom; please contact Liz or Susi via email [international.issues.hr@almas.org.au](mailto:international.issues.hr@almas.org.au) if you are an ALMA member who would like to join this group. Please read the ALMA position statement on climate for more information.