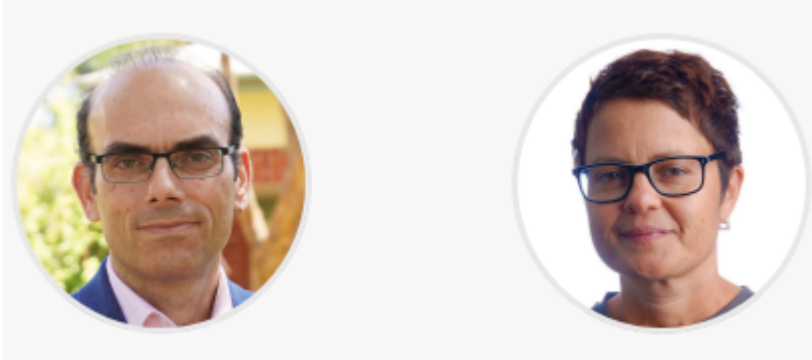


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# NEWSLETTER

**October 2024**

## Message from the HEAL Conference 2024 Co-Chairs



“Welcome to the October 2024 newsletter of the Healthy Environments and Lives (HEAL) National Research Network.

As we are approaching our annual conference, [HEAL 2024 'Healing with Country for a Sustainable Future for Everyone' \(26-28 November\)](#), we are excited to share the draft program and announce a stellar line-up of speakers from academia, government and community organisations. Our conference will bring together diverse experiences from problem-solving research that will help to implement more sustainable healthcare practices and strengthen the resilience of communities to environmental change and climate extremes. In line with HEAL's core commitment to elevate Australian First Nations leadership and knowledges, we will be highlighting the gift of Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing for systems engaged in environmental change preparedness and co-design for mitigation and adaptation solutions.

HEAL 2024 includes sessions on the implementation of the National Health and Climate Strategy, Indigenous knowledge systems, extreme heat and health protection, bushfires and air pollution, climate change and mental health, health care sustainability, clean energy, urban and rural health, antimicrobial resistance and One Health, and science communication to diverse audiences. On the last day of the conference, we will also announce a number of exciting research initiatives and awards.

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HEAL 2024 will be delivered online nationally and internationally, and in-person at six regional nodes across Australia, providing multiple avenues for delegates to participate free of charge and connect with each other. This hybrid format, online and in-person, aims to stimulate interaction and minimise travel, energy use and waste, in line with our commitment for an inclusive, diverse, and low carbon research network.

Please [register](#) to attend HEAL 2024. We look forward to seeing you in November!"

Professor Sotiris Vardoulakis & Associate Professor Veronica Matthews  
HEAL 2024 Conference Co-Chairs

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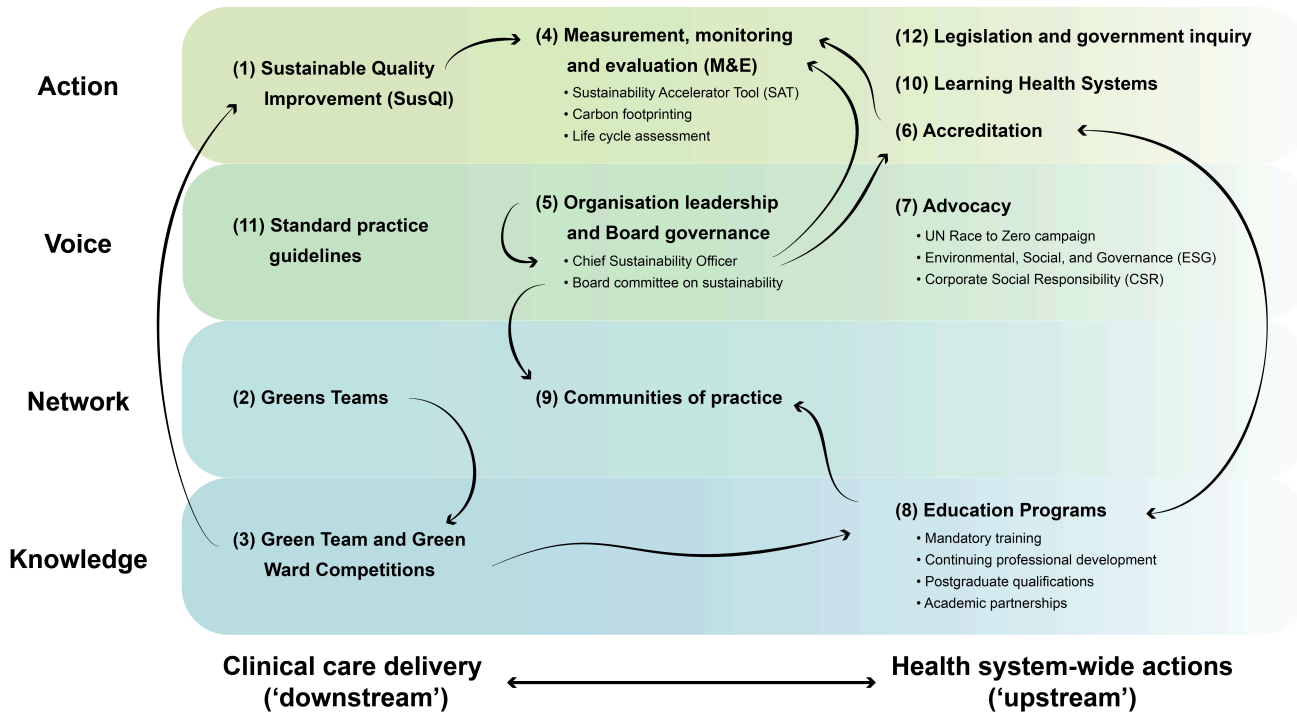
## News and Updates

### Launch of the ISQua Green Paper: integrating the climate change response into healthcare quality and safety around the globe!



Associate Professor Adi Vyas, Deputy Director of the HEAL, recently had the chance to continue our work of putting the "global" in the HEAL Global Research Centre. This year, Istanbul hosted the [International Society for Quality in Health Care \(ISQua\)](#).

Adi co-authored and launched the [ISQua Green Paper](#) and Call to Action for Environmentally Sustainable and Climate Resilient Health Systems, together with co-author Dr Hans Ossebaard (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), ISQua Past President Prof Jeffrey Braithwaite (Macquarie University), and ISQua CEO Dr Carsten Engel.



We would encourage the HEAL Network to review the ISQua Green Paper as it brings together the latest evidence and - most importantly - outlines the pathways for practical actions on environmental sustainability in health systems. This is a timely development in a world where the climate crisis is affecting the health of populations, as well as the very ability of health systems to delivery good quality and high value care. We look forward to developing these ideas further in our local context in Australia, please reach out to [Adi](#) if you are interested in joining this endeavour!

## International Symposium on Ecosystem Change, Infectious Disease Transmission and Early Warning



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Professor Wenbiao Hu and his team at QUT organised the [International Symposium on Ecosystem Change, Infectious Disease Transmission and Early Warning](#) in Brisbane on 15–16 October 2024. The symposium facilitated the establishment of a collaborative research network, with plans to apply for an NHMRC CRE grant under the title ‘Developing integrated early warning systems for climate-sensitive infectious diseases’. This initiative aligns closely with HEAL’s Biosecurity and Emerging Infection theme, aiming to foster multi-sector collaboration and build a resilient early warning framework that addresses health threats driven by climate change.

The symposium offered a valuable platform for ECRs to fostered dialogue on building early warning systems for infectious diseases through multi-national, multi-sector collaborations. The event highlighted opportunities for ECRs to engage in real-world applications and explore partnerships with international institutions, paving the way for practical collaboration. More than 50 speakers participated including many HEAL investigators and affiliates, promoting and cultivating research collaboration in the wider Asia-Pacific Region. A notable feature was a video interview with Nobel Laureate Professor Peter Doherty, alongside a panel discussion on collaborative research networks for early warning systems in the Asia-Pacific.





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of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the symposium attracted over 350 participants from prominent institutions like Queensland Health, China CDC, and more than 40 universities across Australia, China, Indonesia, and beyond. The symposium focused on the pressing issue of how ecosystem changes impact infectious disease transmission and showcased strategies for developing effective early warning systems to mitigate associated risks. This gathering underscored the need for unified global efforts to tackle the challenges posed by environmental change and infectious disease threats.

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## Dr Barnes speaks to ABC Radio 'Future Tense'

Dr Paul Barnes was interviewed on current [national strategy on natural hazards and disaster management](#) ABC Radio 'FutureTense' (13:22-18:40).

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## News from HEAL regional hubs



### Queensland

Griffith University has appointed Dr Peter Black as an adjunct Associate Professor to support the Centre for Environment & Population Health-coordinated One Health Community of Practice (HEAL QLD coordinating HUB) as special adviser. Dr Black brings detailed expertise from previous services as Director of the One Health, Animal Health Policy Branch Australian Government Department of Agriculture and periods as acting Chief Veterinary Officer and Assistant Secretary within the Animal Health Policy Branch, Department of Agriculture.

Dr Paul Barnes was invited to join the Stakeholder Advisory Group for the [Natural hazards and resilience in complex urban systems](#) research project funded by Natural Hazards Research Australia. The project will examine multidimensional, compounding and cascading disaster impacts on communities located in major urban areas in Australia arising from natural hazard event and how such events impact urban resilience.

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Local Communities of Practice events (often referred to as Seasonal Yarns) have been held in Collie, Kwinana and on Ballardong Country, and conversations on the relationship building necessary to establish Local Communities of Practice in other parts of the state are ongoing.

Jo, Sarah, Yungaji, Jaime and Naomi attended the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's climate adaptation research project workshop. Part 5 of the WA Public Health Act is currently being implemented. This is a significant piece of policy reform and could enable local governments to prevent harms and enhance the health, social and emotional wellbeing of their communities. HEAL WA and CJU co-hosted an online Communities of Practice event about this work on the 30th of October 2024. Contact WA Hub Lead [Brad Farrant](#) to discuss further.

## Upcoming Events



The HEAL Network is hosting its annual conference with the theme of 'Healing Country for a Sustainable Future for Everyone'. The 3-day conference will showcase how the HEAL Network is addressing these challenges, shaping innovative research to support Australia's first National Health and Climate Strategy, and helping to implement new practices such as more sustainable healthcare and climate-resilient communities.

The hybrid conference will be delivered online nationally and internationally, and in-person at eight regional nodes across Australia, providing multiple avenues for delegates to participate and connect with each other.

To find more, please visit the [HEAL 2024 Conference website](#).

Register for free [here](#).

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## HEAL Investigator Meeting - 6 November 2024

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“Whilst gendered violence and other gendered health impacts of disasters are well rehearsed in the literature, relatively less attention has been paid to women's important role in supporting the health and wellbeing of communities during the peak and aftermath of extreme weather-related events such as floods”.

Join us at the HEAL Investigators meeting to hear from Dr Rebecca McNaught present a case study from the Northern Rivers region of NSW exploring the gendered dimensions of rural Australian community disaster responses and resilience building. The meeting will also include an update on the HEAL Network Director.

**Date:** Wednesday 6th November 2024

**Time:** 2pm-3pm

Please email [heal@canberra.edu.au](mailto:heal@canberra.edu.au) for the TEAMS link to the meeting.

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## Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum (12- 22 November)



The Climate and Health Alliance/ GGHH Pacific Region are hosting this year's [Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum](#), showcasing health sector leaders across Australia and the Pacific who are de-carbonising their operations, strengthening climate resilience, and actively working to improve health equity.

The forum will be delivered online over two weeks (12th-22nd November), and will provide opportunities for knowledge sharing, connection building, skill sharing and to



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## Upcoming Opportunities

### Post-doctoral research fellow - Public Health University of Sydney

A postdoctoral researcher is required to investigate infectious, water and environmental factors that influence human health outcomes including infectious diseases in Fiji. The successful candidate will be required to support the establishment of surveillance systems to monitor infectious diseases of relevance in Fiji (for example typhoid, dengue and leptospirosis and other related infections).

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#)

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### Call for Australian applicants: Australia India Women Researchers' Fellowships

Fellowships are available for early-career women researchers in regional Australia to collaborate with Indian higher education institutions in STEM fields. The Australia India Women Researchers' Exchange (AIWE) Program has expanded its eligibility criteria to include women researchers based at any Australian university campus located outside of metropolitan Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra or Perth.

The AIWE Program, led by the Australia India Institute and funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, aims to strengthen collaboration between Australia and India while addressing gender equity in STEM research.

Fellowships are available to early-career postdoctoral researchers in STEM disciplines. Each fellowship supports a 6 to 8-week research exchange in India, to be completed by 31 May 2025.

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#)

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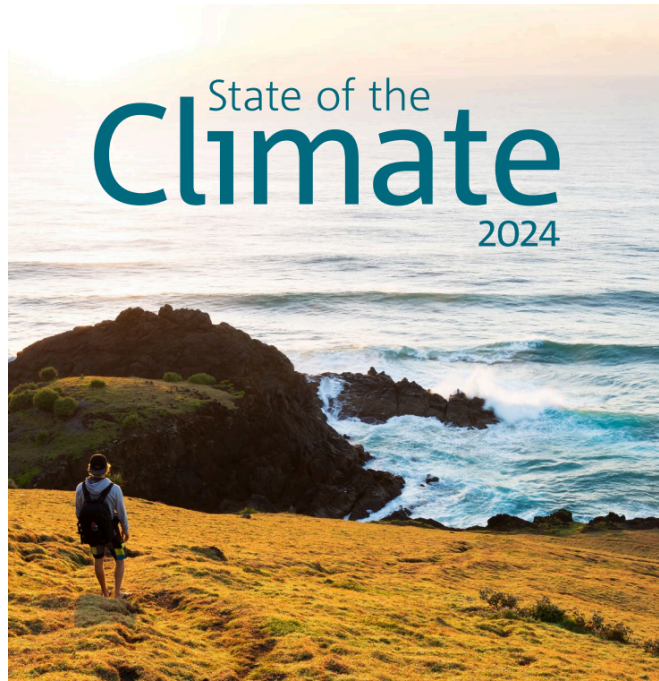
## Latest Reports

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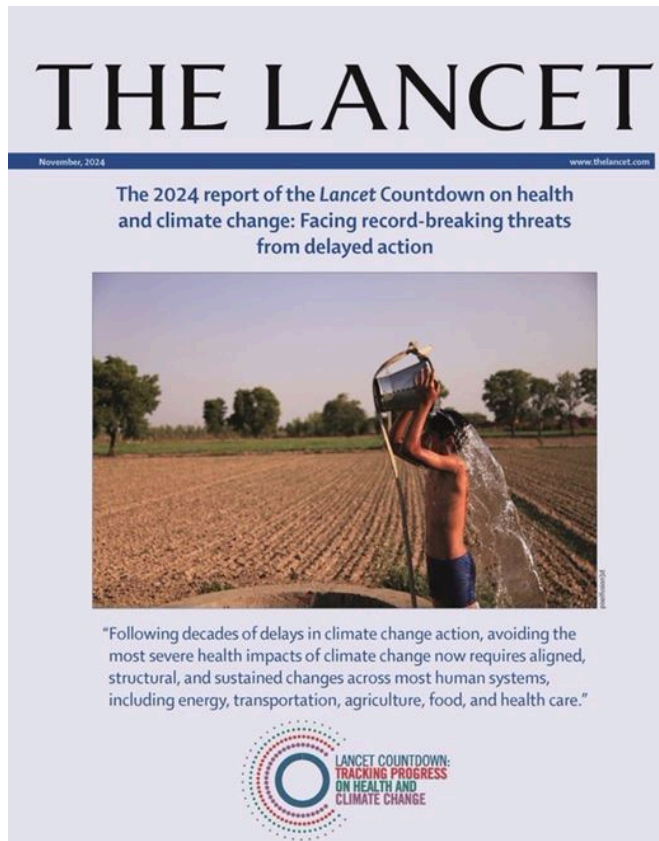
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CSIRO and BOM report



### The Lancet Countdown report



## Publications

Alam, N., Lee, P., Alam, M., Chu, C. (2024) [‘High Income But Poor COVID-19 Outcomes: The Contrasting Results of The Pre COVID 19 Joint External](#)

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Li, A., Toll, M. & Bentley, R. [The risk of energy hardship increases with extreme heat and cold in Australia](#). Nature Commun Earth Environ 5,595 (2024).

Taylor-Blair, H. C., Siu, A. C. W., Haysom-McDowell, A., Kokkinis, S., Saeid, A. B., Chellappan, D. K., ... & Dua, K. (2024). [The impact of airborne particulate matter-based pollution on the cellular and molecular mechanisms in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease \(COPD\)](#). Science of the Total Environment, 176413.

Zhang Y., Kent J., Harris P., Nelson J.D., Tong M., Vardoulakis S., 2023. [International experiences on active travel planning: Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic](#). Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives 28, 101259.

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## Newsletter Contributions

Please contact [heal@canberra.edu.au](mailto:heal@canberra.edu.au) regarding any relevant activities, news, and or publications for inclusion in future newsletters.



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