

Queensland Heat Health Community of Practice (QHHCoP)

INTERNAL PROJECT TEAM

Assoc Prof Shannon Rutherford 1, 3 ; Dr Tony Matthews 2, 3; Ella Jackman 1, 3
1 School of Medicine and Dentistry; 2 School of Engineering and Built Environment; 3 Climate Action Beacon

YEAR 1 FUNDED BY

Griffith University Climate Action Beacon

Why a heat health CoP?

Increased ambient temperatures are a significant threat to both humans and ecosystems. In Australia, the recent State of the Climate (BoM & CSIRO, 2022) illustrated that extreme heat events are becoming more common due to climate change, with these events becoming longer, more intense and more frequent across the country. Indeed, modelling from Queensland's Long Paddock indicates that in 2030, the frequency of heatwaves could exceed 18 days. As Australia's most deadly disaster (Coates et al., 2014), this will have serious consequences on public health, especially among vulnerable populations.

The Human Health and Wellbeing Climate Adaptation Plan (H-CAP), developed in 2019 by stakeholders from health care, aged care and early childhood education, highlighted heat health impacts as a paramount concern. In response, Queensland's Department of Environment and Science (DES) put forth the idea of establishing a Queensland Heat Health Community of Practice (QHHCoP) to share and store resources, knowledge, and best practices.

Who are we?

The QHHCoP is a multisectoral professional group aiming to enhance local collaboration to assist in identifying, implementing and evaluating solutions to manage heat and human health issues across Queensland.

Membership

Our diverse membership includes over 200 professionals working across local and state government, academia, private health, built environment and Non-Government Organisations (see Figure 1).

Membership is currently free, and includes access to a quarterly newsletter with relevant heat health news, research and grants, as well as priority access to our events, recordings and growing heat health resources.

To help drive the QHHCoP and ensure it remains relevant to our membership, we have a dedicated Advisory Group with representatives from other Queensland-based universities, industry consultants, and local and state government sectors.

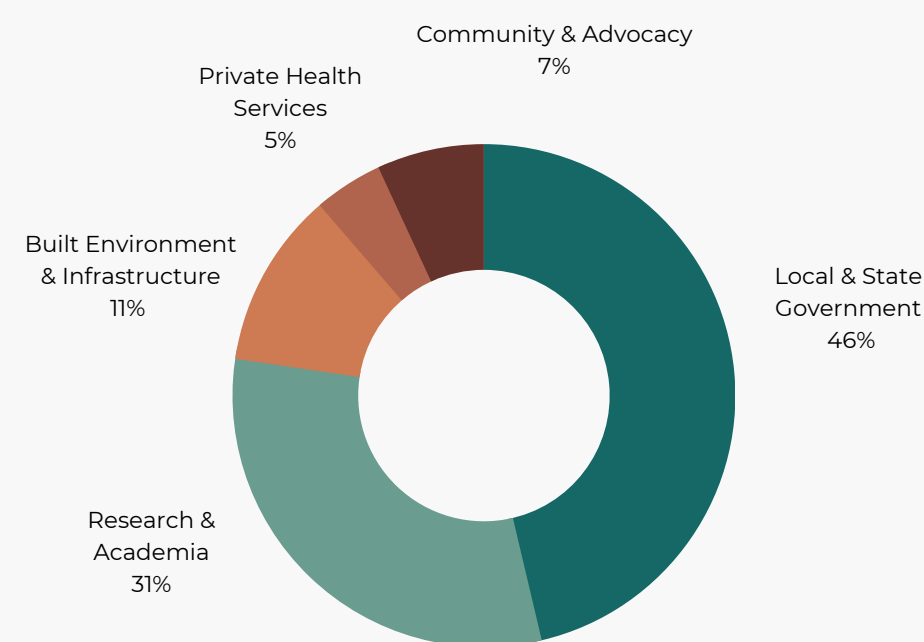


Figure 1. Breakdown of QHHCoP membership by organisation (October 2023)

Achievements so far



Hosted 4 Events

Featuring expert panelists discussing local government projects, heat projections, state policies, new research, and innovative solutions to heat health challenges.



Conference Presentations

Invited to present at the 2022 Climate Resilient Councils and LGAQ Disaster Management Forum.



Resource Development

Developed 2 heat explainers with a third under review, overviewing the impact of heat on human health, heat and its impact on infrastructure and the heat policy landscape in Queensland and Australia.



Online Platform

Created a live website to store and share past events recordings, learnings, heat related resources and best practices, with new content to be uploaded regularly.



Interstate & International Connections

Networking with heat advocacy group Sweltering Cities (Vic & NSW) and international heat resilience leader, Extreme Heat Resilience Alliance sector of the Arsh-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center (US).

Upcoming Event: Lessons Learned from Arsh-Rock

As we anticipate an impending hot summer, our next event focuses on leveraging insights from the United States to aid in preparing for Australia's El Nino summer.

This hybrid event commences with a presentation by the Extreme Heat Resilience Alliance Sector of the Adrienne Arsh-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center, where we will delve into their experiences during the challenging US summers and explore adaptable strategies that could aid our readiness for the forthcoming hot season in Australia.

Interested in Joining?



Scan the QR code to fill out our interest form or visit our website at www.qhhcop.org