Dear Member

**Children and Climate Change report**

We have just released our report on children and climate change, which is a major initiative for our organisation and one which does a terrific job shining the national spotlight on the health dangers children especially face from global warming.

Our special thanks go to Fiona Stanley who launched the report in Perth on Sunday 31 May, and also to many of our members and friends in and out of Perth who contributed in putting this report and event together.

The report, *No Time for Games: Children’s Health and Climate Change*, was co-authored by David Shearman and Sallie Forrest with a foreword from Fiona Stanley.

We’ve had a fantastic response from the national media, including *SMH*, ABC TV, *online* news, radio 774, Perth media and several regional publications as well as the *Medical Observer*.

The report offers four major solutions in tackling climate change, one of which is for the Federal Government to adopt a national action plan, including robust emissions targets to take to the global climate change meeting in Paris in December this year.

As Fiona Stanley pointed out on Sunday, the health effects of climate change, and particularly the health effects on children, have been “grossly neglected and have not been acknowledged”. Furthermore this generation of children may be the last to live longer than their parents.

The report is a significant one for DEA, and we ask that you please share it on social media and among your networks.
Big Win: Anglesea Coal Mine and Powerplant to close
Those who have been following DEA’s coal advocacy work for several years will appreciate how pleased we were of the announcement on May 12th by Alcoa Australia to close their coal operations next to the Victorian seaside town of Anglesea on August 31st. DEA’s press release highlights some of our many activities over those years. This is a real win for DEA and other groups, with particular acknowledgment going to DEA member Jacinta Morahan who is a local resident and has worked tirelessly with her local community and the Surf Coast Air Action group to raise awareness of the health threats connected with this coal operation. The Victorian Government is also now urgently looking at how to minimise fire risk of the mine site before next summer with the Anglesea mine site included in the Terms of Reference of the recently reopened Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry.

Annual Appeal
Thanks for contributing to the annual DEA Healthy Planet Healthy People appeal, which is vital to DEA. Why not commit “One day’s pay to DEA”?

All donations welcome: together we can do more.

Webinar: The Symptoms of Climate Change
Wednesday 3 June - 9am - 10:15am EST
What do smoking and climate change have in common?

Join DEA member, Dr Eleanor Evans, GP and partner of the Blackwood Clinic for an enlightening discussion on the public health impacts of climate change and how ‘treating’ climate change will deliver improved health outcomes for us all.
Eleanor will reveal the strategies used to undermine the public's understanding of the effect of smoking and how the same strategies have been used to mislead and misdirect the public on environmental issues, including acid rain, the relationship between CFCs and the hole in the ozone layer, the health effects of second-hand smoke and climate change.

Further information or Book Tickets

WA – HBF Run for a reason

On May 24th a group of 15 doctors hit the Perth city roads with 30,000 other competitors to raise funds for and publicise the cause for DEA. We looked professional and healthy in our smart T'shirts provided by DEA and delivered by Sallie Forrest!

Richard Yin completed his 21 km before the main contingent of 4 km runners (most of us) set out from Forrest Place - Shiran Xiao (med student) and Jay Williams also made excellent times in the 12 km circuit. A group of us bussed back to the city centre for coffee and some social downtime together. Thanks to nonmedical participants Shirley Collins, Ken Leong, Jay Williams, Suzie Houghton and my daughter Mary for moral and team support.

With donations to date exceeding $3,000 we are well on our way to achieving expectations (goal amount - $5,000).

Thanks to Shiran for helping get a team together and Kate for an article in the local Post newspaper.

Team DEA - Melbourne Marathon Early Bird entries close soon!
We are delighted to announce that Team DEA is re-banding for the 2015 Melbourne Marathon Festival this October 18th.
For those who’ve run before, it is time to dust off your DEA run singlets, grab a friend and hit the ground running. Perhaps you could use this event to set running goals on distance and times. If you haven’t run before of course we’d love you to join us. Meet new DEA friends, get fit, have fun and promote active lifestyle.

Last year was a very successful event with over 75 team members, $25,000 raised and lots of press in mainstream and medical media. Let’s make this year even better! A great way to build our community and promote preventative health.

You can visit the Melbourne Marathon Festival’s website for information and to register. The Team name is: Team DEA and the password to join is: RUNDEA. For detailed instructions, contact team coordinator Laura Beaton laurajbeaton@gmail.com. Note that Early Bird registration closes on June 30, so get in before then for discounted entry fees. Remember that for DEA student members, DEA will refund your entry fee once you fund-raise 4x the cost, as a thank you for your efforts.

**Update on Lapoinya Clear Fell logging, Tasmania**

Following our invitation to sign the Petition to stop clear felling in Lapoinya, Tasmania in our April’s e-newsletter, the petition and your letters to the Minister and Forestry Tasmania (FT) Chair have had an amazing effect!

The good news is that Lapoinya has so far not been logged and now that the rains have arrived, it is increasingly less likely this year. Although one does not wish to take pleasure in people losing their jobs, the Liberal government has been forced by public opinion into accepting that this loss-making industry deserves not a penny more of public money. Unfortunately, Tasmanian Labor is still pushing for FT subsidies, demonstrating that both parties are as bad as each other.

Market economics can no longer justify the continuous losses of the forestry industry. The ONLY way for Forestry Tasmania to stop losing money is to stop cutting down trees.

For more information:

**IMF and fossil fuel subsidies**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) published an astounding Working Paper detailing the extent of global fossil fuel subsides on May 18th ‘IMF Working Paper; How Large Are Global Energy Subsidies’ A review of the paper is available from The Guardian which quotes that globally fossil fuel subsidies amount to $10 million per minute which is greater than the total expenditure of all global governments on health.

**Global Green and Health Hospitals 2020 Healthcare Climate Challenge**

Members might be interested in the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals 2020 Healthcare Climate Challenge. The challenge kicked off in April 2015 and invites health care systems and hospitals to reduce their carbon footprint and protect public health from climate change in the lead-up to the UN Conference on Climate Change this December in Paris, and beyond.
The Challenge is based on three pillars:
2. Resilience – Preparing for the impacts of extreme weather and the shifting burden of disease.
3. Leadership – Educating staff and the public while promoting policies to protect public health from climate change.

Medical Journal of Australia essay writing prizes
The Dr Ross Ingram Memorial Prize 2015
The competition is open to any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who is working, researching or training in a health-related field. Entries should use an example or a story, to present original and positive ideas aimed at promoting health gains and health equity for Australia’s Indigenous peoples.

They need not be written in formal academic style with extensive referencing, but supporting references can be used where appropriate. Essays should be no more than 2,000 words long.

The winner will receive a $4,000 cash prize and the winning essay will be published in the MJA.


The MJA, MDA National, Nossal Global Health Prize
This is an international competition, open to medical students and practising and retired doctors from anywhere in the world who are working in, or have worked in, a resource-poor setting. In an essay of no more than 1,200 words, use a story or example from your experience of working in a resource-poor setting to follow this year’s theme (below) and illuminate a topic of global health importance. The essay style should be narrative rather than academic, and no referencing is required. Include images or photographs if they are appropriate.

The theme for 2015 is: “How should we balance clinical medicine and public health responses to global health challenges?” Using an example from your experience, write an essay describing how these challenges could be met in one or more settings, such as maternal health, child health, men’s health, chronic disease, prevention or other.

For more information, check MJA’s website and submit entries via https://www.mja.com.au/submissions until Monday 10 August 2015 at the latest.

Student News
DEA Students are pleased to announce that their committee has now been finalised. The members of the committee are listed below, and further information on each committee member is available on our website.

National Student Rep & Elect
Sarah Cohn (UNSW)
Kate Wheldrake (Flinders)

Secretary
Amanda Zhou (UNSW)
State reps
NSW: Emily Jenkins (Sydney Uni)
Victoria: Raima Ahmed (Monash)
SA: Carmen Hayward (Flinders)
WA: Danielle Malatzky (UWA)
Tasmania: Natasha Abeysekera (UTAS)
Queensland: Daniel Lack (UQ)

Website Manager
Declan Scragg (Wollongong)

iDEA convenor
Beau Frigault (UQ)

Having held our first committee meeting for the year, DEA Students have formulated a vision statement and a number of goals that build on feedback from last year’s committee. The students are looking forward to seeing out this vision over the next couple of years, and have begun work on their first goal of electing DEA university reps at each university in the country.

VISION
DEA Students have a 2-year vision for 2015-2016:

- To strengthen DEA’s presence at each university in Australia, creating a structured state student committee for each state, with a process to ensure its continuity from year to year.
- To use these state committees to increase our student numbers and ensure that all members are given opportunities to engage with DEA to increase their knowledge and skills, and are kept informed of its activities.
- To gradually increase the number of nationally co-ordinated events and activities as the state committees strengthen in terms of size and structure.

The following goals are for the year 2015. They will be re-evaluated and added to when the 2016 Student Committee is elected.

GOALS
1. Designate a DEA student representative at each university.
2. Formalise a state student committee for each state with a clear process for hand-over from year to year.
3. Maintain strong communication with DEA’s Management Committee, through both the National Student Rep/NSR-Elect and the state student committees
4. Increase student numbers from the current 309 student members to 400 (with the aim of 500 by the end of 2016). A particular focus will be maximising DEA’s presence at the university O-weeks.
5. Ensure student members are provided with regular communication and opportunities to engage with the organisation and its activities, particularly with ensuring a regular monthly state student newsletter.
6. Create a students section of the DEA website that is engaging, informative and up-to-date.
7. Organise a successful iDEA16 conference, in terms of strong attendance, engaging speakers and workshops, and reflecting the professional and highly regarded nature of DEA.
8. Ensure a comprehensive hand-over to the 2016 Student Committee to avoid losing momentum and continue seeing out the 2-year vision.
STATE NEWS

South Australia
It’s been a busy month for DEA members in South Australia.

On 15 May Professor John Willoughby and Kate Wheldrake (student member) represented DEA in a submission to the Parliamentary Enquiry into Unconventional Gas development in the south-east of the State. Kate is strategically placed in Mt Gambier for her medical studies and has also been able to meet with local council leaders to discuss this issue.

Along with DEA members in other states, we’ve been busy meeting with ALP politicians ahead of the Labor Platform Review in July. DEA SA members have visited Senator Anne McEwen and Senator Alex Gallacher, held a telephone interview with Amanda Rishworth and had meetings with the Chiefs of Staff for Senator Penny Wong and Kate Ellis which will hopefully lead to meetings with these politicians. In addition to his many contributions to DEA, Professor David Shearman has also been meeting with some State MPs.

A submission to the Royal Commission on reprocessing nuclear waste is in progress and we are waiting for details before putting in a submission regarding the current Senate Committee enquiry (yes another one!) into wind farms. John Willoughby and Kate Wheldrake attended a Round Table of groups involved in preparing submissions to this Royal Commission.

There has been increasing media interest in South Australia in relation to Concentrated Solar Thermal (CST) power to replace the coal power stations in Port Augusta. In response, DEA members have been increasing our advocacy in the media and with political leaders. Dr Ingo Weber represented DEA at a community meeting in Port Augusta in April. Ingo and A/Prof Hubertus Jersmann have also been active in delivering presentations on climate change and health to medical students.

We’ve continued with advocacy for divestment, and DEA members, writing as individuals, have received favourable and encouraging responses from both the RACP and RACGP in relation to fossil fuel investments and divestment.

We are planning to hold a workshop in June to write up some ‘projects’ that match with DEA national priorities and our own strategic plans. These projects will be designed to increase involvement of student and doctor members, and some may be suitable for student members as part of their course requirements or electives. We are also planning to meet with senior Adelaide City Council staff, hopefully including the Lord Mayor to discuss how DEA can support the Council in its plans to become a green city.

Victoria
As mentioned May has been an exciting month for Victoria with the announcement by Alcoa that they intend to close their Anglesea coal mine and power station in August this year. Although the State Opposition Party claimed this was simply a market-based decision, we strongly suspect that action by local groups and especially Dr Jacinta Morahan, and DEA played a significant role and we may have even influenced the local market. There is no doubt that pressure will now be felt by the other coal fired power stations in the Latrobe Valley, with Hazelwood the next one for DEA and other groups to focus their attention on.
We have continued to see Victorian members of the federal parliament. Mark Dreyfus MP, the Shadow Attorney General, is a thorough environmentalist. David Feeney MP was seen by the combined AMSA and DEA membership. DEA Vic is also finalising the updating of our previous election documents to begin visiting Victorian State ALP MPs to raise awareness of our concerns and present our updated asks – including a Victorian Renewable Energy Target.

At the end of April, DEA spoke at a lunch-time medical meeting at Geelong hospital. This hospital is part of Barwon Health which has a strong environmental focus and is also aligned with a large community organisation which is encouraging sustainable local development. Sometimes local communities can do more to influence sustainable practices than do the more cumbersome politicised governments.

Monash student members have been active, particularly with divestment and we hope to announce some real progress next month. Raimah Ahmed has been elected as the National student representative for Victoria.

Queensland
In North Queensland, a public lecture was held at James Cook University on the links between climate change and human health. DEA Management Committee member Dr Malcolm Forbes spoke at the event. There were around 50 attendees, including staff and students from the university and general public. It was an excellent event and the JCU DEA team, in particular Carolyn Reimann and Rebecca Tuma, should be congratulated for their efforts in arranging this event.

Western Australia
It’s been a busy month in WA!

On Sunday 31st May DEA’s report *No Time for Games: Children’s Health and Climate Change* authored by Sallie Forrest and David Shearman with a foreword from Fiona Stanley was launched in Perth (see above for a more detailed report).

A team of 15 WA competitors took part in the Perth HBF Run for a reason on May 24th raising much needed funds for DEA. Thank you and congratulations to all who participated.

Book Review by Karen English

Sitting at what I have affectionately named my ‘toilet’ desk, for the fact that it’s located opposite the door to our office toilet, for an excessive duration of time each day, with only a frosted window to remind me that a world exists outdoors, I realised I had a serious case of nature deficit disorder (and PhD overload). Richard Louv coined this term to describe the phenomenon that affects many of us today – a serious lack of contact with the natural world.

Throughout the "Nature Principle“ Louv describes how our bodies have evolved with nature; deprivation of nature is a major detriment to our wellbeing, both physical and mental. Throughout the book Louv provides many examples of how physicians, by recognising nature deficit disorder in their patients, can help improve patient wellbeing. In an era of sensory overload provided by a multitude of glowing screens, time in nature is all the more important for alleviating mental fatigue, as well as preventing and ameliorating a myriad of other health ailments. Time in nature can help improve
concentration and memory, reduce anxiety and aggression. Louv describes how physicians throughout the world are increasingly ‘green prescribing’ – writing detailed instructions for their patients on how and where they can spend time in nature. The best bit about this prescription? It’s free with unlimited repeats. You might find this useful for your patients, or, if you’ve ever spent a day at work in which you’ve returned home and realised you have no idea what the weather was like that day, you might find this useful for yourself!

**General items**
Another co-benefit for health and the environment – Working less and improving work/life balance, an interesting [article in The Conversation](https://theconversation.com/) about this.

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