

Sustainability in healthcare update

Update No. 19
February 2017

The Department of Health and Human Services produces the quarterly sustainability updates to inform health services on sustainability initiatives being implemented across the health care sector, as well as key sustainability issues of interest. We welcome items of interest from health services.

TAKE2: Victoria's climate change pledge

The State Government has set Victoria an ambitious net zero emissions target by 2050, with an interim 2020 target of 15 to 20 per cent below 2005 emissions.

On 7 February 2017 the department and Sustainability Victoria promoted Victoria's climate change program TAKE2 to departmental and health service staff in the foyer of 50 Lonsdale Street.

Representatives from the department, Monash Health, Alfred Health, Health Purchasing Victoria and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (Victorian Branch) made personal pledges to tackle climate change. Look out for the article in the March edition of Health Victoria at <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthvictoria/>.

The department encourages all health service staff to help by joining TAKE2 - it's simple and it's free. Just visit the TAKE2 website and make the pledge by choosing from the tailored actions on the TAKE2 website, such as:

- Turning leftovers into new meals
- Donating or buying items from not-for-profit groups
- Installing solar panels at home
- Growing your own food at home.

Once you've joined and chosen the actions you want to take, you will receive a personalised plan, regular updates and tips; you can track your progress and see how others

are playing their part. The more people who join TAKE2, the bigger the impact on climate change.

More information is available on the TAKE2 website: <https://www.take2.vic.gov.au>.



Figure 1: From left Sally Welbourn (Alfred Health), Roslyn Morgan (Monash Health), Jacqui Dunn (Monash Health), Libby Muir (ANMF-Vic)

Victoria's Climate Change Framework and Adaptation Plan

The State Government has released *Victoria's Climate Change Framework* and *Victoria's Climate Adaptation Plan*. These plans set out how Victoria is responding to climate change and commit the government to lead by example.

Specific actions for the department are to reduce the carbon intensity of health service delivery and understand the carbon liability of the health and human services sector, as well as piloting a climate change adaptation plan for the sector. Further information can be found at <http://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au>

Health Service performance compliance and feedback survey

The department monitors the compliance of health services with meeting their requirements under the Policy and Funding Guidelines by surveying and auditing environmental management plans in alternate years.

This year's survey is due to be sent to all health services in February. The first survey in 2015 confirmed that health services were compliant with their requirements but audits of ten health service plans in 2016 identified variation in quality. This year's survey is seeking to gain a greater understanding of the depth and scope of environmental management planning as well as identifying opportunities and barriers to improve health services' environmental sustainability.

PVC recycling in hospitals

The PVC Recycling in Hospitals Program collects medical products - specifically intravenous bags, face masks and oxygen tubing - for recycling into new products. The program was initiated in 2009 by Dr Forbes McGain at Western Health. The Vinyl Council has since expanded the program in collaboration with Western Health, Council member Baxter Healthcare, government agencies and local recyclers and transport companies.

The program has grown to service 90 hospitals, mostly in Victoria, Tasmania, New Zealand and New South Wales and is gaining interest in the United Kingdom and America. The Vinyl Council of Australia has produced a range of resources and provides assistance to health services seeking to undertake PVC recycling.

The department encourages health services to participate and more information can be obtained by visiting the PVC council website: <http://www.vinyl.org.au/sustainability/recycling-pvc/recycling-your-product/pvc-recycling-in-hospitals>

Upcoming sustainability training – webinar trial

The department will be piloting a webinar to deliver training on sustainability topics. The webinar will allow participants to access experts on particular topics and to share information among peers. The trial will be held in March 2017 with Dr Jefferson Hopewell, Sustainable Procurement Officer, Health Purchasing Victoria. More information will be available within the Sustainability in healthcare forum or by emailing sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

Environmental data management system (EDMS) update

The environmental data management system is live in all health services. The user experience survey will close at the end of February 2017. All registered users are encouraged to provide feedback on the system – its ease of use, system performance, reports quality and output and general system support. Health services are reminded that environmental reports are available and can be run anytime by health services. The reports can be used for public reporting requirements and internal reporting. The key activity checklist outlines routine activities to ensure data is kept up to date and health services get the most out of the system.

Refresher training was recently held in Bendigo and Swan Hill following successful sessions in Melbourne, Sale, Wangaratta, Stawell and Warrnambool. The final 2016-17 refresher training session is in Melbourne on Wednesday 8 March 2017. For further information contact julian.freeland@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Global Green and Healthy Hospitals' 2020 Healthcare Climate Challenge

Congratulations to Kooweerup Regional Health Service, one of three members within the Pacific region to receive recognition in the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals' 2020 Healthcare Climate Challenge.

Kooweerup Regional Health Service was awarded Silver for Climate Resiliency and Gold for Climate Leadership. As part of the 2020 Challenge participants can receive global recognition for their leadership role in the movement toward a low carbon health sector and a healthy climate. More information is available from the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals website: <http://www.greenhospitals.net/about-challenge>

Chemical free cleaning: Monash Health seminar

Monash Health is running a seminar on cleaning using microfiber cloths at Monash Medical Centre, Clayton on Friday, 17th March 2017, 9.00am-12.00pm. More information is available from Monash Health on 9594 2623 and a flyer is available on the Sustainability in healthcare online forum.

Sustainability in healthcare online forum – your input welcomed

This forum provides a secure platform for the discussion and sharing of healthcare related sustainability materials and topics. The forum is open to any staff with a public health service email address, and we encourage interested staff to join and contribute. To register for access to the forum please email sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

Sustainability unit news

Alfred Health has created a new position – Environmental and Sustainability Officer – to set a consistent direction and guidance for environmental planning and sustainability, to effectively manage decision making within the organisation.

Sally Welbourn has been appointed to the position and will develop and implement Alfred Health's Environmental Management Plan (2017–2021). The plan will align with Alfred Health's purpose 'To improve the lives of our patients and their families, our communities and humanity'.

Taking this important step towards managing resources will ensure Alfred Health has a high level response to sustainability in health and the changing and emerging needs of Melbourne and Victoria.

Sally was previously the Environment Sustainability Project Officer at Bayside City Council.

Further information

The Sustainability in healthcare website is available at: www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability To join the Sustainability in healthcare online forum (open to public health service staff) email sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au or sustainability@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Tiernan Humphrys	Manager Environmental Sustainability	9096 2057	tiernan.humphrys@dhhs.vic.gov.au
Sarah Bending	Environmental Programs Advisor	9096 2049	sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au
Julian Freeland	Senior Project Officer	9096 2063	julian.freeland@dhhs.vic.gov.au

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 9096 2119 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email sustainability@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

© State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services, February 2017

ISSN 2207-0893 (Online)(pdf)

Available at www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability