As organisations representing doctors, nurses, consumers, allied health, public health, researchers and healthcare workers, we call on the Commonwealth Government to **fund the National Health and Climate Strategy** to safeguard our health.

This summer has demonstrated the serious health effects of extreme weather in a hotter climate. From stifling heat waves to deadly storms, from fires to floods, communities across Australia are increasingly exposed to the health threats from climate change.

This is not an anomaly. This time last year, there were fires burning in several states. Two years ago, the Northern Rivers was inundated by record-breaking floods. Four years ago, the 2019-20 megafire season ended after seven months. As these events compound, the burden on our health systems grows and the capacity to deliver high quality care shrinks.

Climate change is accelerating, and it threatens more Australian lives and livelihoods with every year that passes. Funding for the National Health and Climate Strategy is a crucial step towards supporting our health sector to respond to climate disasters.

In the face of more frequent, intense climate disasters, the Commonwealth Government must fulfil its promise of a healthy, climate resilient future in the 2024/25 budget. **The health system must be capable of anticipating, responding to, adapting to and recovering from the stresses caused by extreme weather and climate disasters.**

Climate change is a key concern for the health sector. Without urgent action, climate change will overburden our healthcare systems, compromise people’s health and ultimately cost lives.

We urge the government to support the health sector by funding the National Health and Climate Strategy. People living in Australia, now and for generations to come, depend on it.

caha.org.au/fund_nhcs