

PLANETARY HEALTH COLLABORATIVE FOR NURSES AND MIDWIVES

# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2025



**Welcome to our 2025 newsletter where you will find an overview of this year's activities and reports from the:**

RESEARCH STRATEGIC PILLAR GROUP

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EDUCATION STRATEGIC PILLAR GROUP

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PRACTICE STRATEGIC PILLAR GROUP

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POLICY AND ADVOCACY STRATEGIC PILLAR GROUP

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“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. **What you do makes a difference**, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

—Jane Goodall



For Australia and around the world, 2025 was a significant year. In October, we said goodbye to Dr Jane Goodall and reflected on her tireless advocacy for conservation, animal welfare, and human rights.

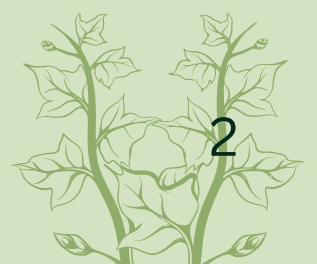
In September 2025, the Australian Government set a new target to cut greenhouse gas emissions by **62–70% below 2005 levels by 2035**. This **target** marks a substantial increase in ambition compared to previous goals and signals that the Australian government is serious (at least rhetorically) about accelerating decarbonisation. Also in 2025, a new Australian climate-risk [report](#) warned of ‘cascading, compounding and concurrent’ climate hazards leading to ecosystem collapses, sea-level rise threatening thousands of residents, and more frequent and extreme weather events.

The direct health implications of these events are substantial, encompassing not only immediate injuries and fatalities but also long-term psychological, physical, and social health consequences.

**At the heart of these challenges lies the broader imperative of planetary health—the recognition that human health is inseparable from the health of the Earth’s natural systems.** Climate change,

biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation are interconnected threats that demand integrated, sustainable, and justice-oriented responses.

Nurses and midwives play a crucial role, not only in emergency responses, but also in driving health system mitigation and adaptation to climate change and pollution. Their understanding of how healthcare contributes to environmental degradation and their frontline experiences in addressing the health outcomes of climate-driven disasters position them to contribute meaningfully to resilience-building and planetary health strategies.





The Planetary Health Collaborative is committed to driving change by examining how nurses and midwives address research priorities, educate people, advocate for those who are disproportionately impacted, and integrate a planetary health lens into practice settings. Against this background, we are proud to share the Collaborative's 2025 achievements. Our work continues to demonstrate how a shared sense of purpose, commitment and collective action can help to create a world where planetary health and environmental justice go hand in hand.

## SYMPOSIUM - PLANETARY HEALTH: LEADING CHANGE IN AN EVOLVING WORLD



A major highlight for the Collaborative in 2025 was our inaugural **'Planetary Health Symposium'** held in September. Co-hosted by UTS and Curtin Universities and convened by Professor Tracey Moroney, it was an inspiring day of collaboration and community building with keynote presentations, concurrent sessions, workshops and panel discussions. There were opportunities to hear innovative ideas, renew connections with friends and colleagues, and forge new collaborations.

The symposium took a hopeful and solutions-based approach with the 70 researchers, educators, clinicians, HDR students and policy influencers from around Australia sharing stories, insights, evidence and progress on achievements. The spirit of collaboration and determination shone through, reminding us that real progress in addressing planetary health challenges is not only possible—it's already happening.



The program was a rich tapestry of research, education, advocacy and practice-based initiatives which included the therapeutic benefits of nature, climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, addressing waste and single use plastics in healthcare, nursing and midwifery-led responses in the Pacific, advocating for systems change, and innovative approaches to embed planetary health and activism into curricula to better prepare clinicians and graduates to promote healthy environments. Deep respect for and connection to Country, Indigenous wisdom, nature and mindfulness were carefully woven throughout the program.



## Feedback from symposium attendees included:

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*The symposium was a reminder that small acts, grounded in connection, ripple into big change.*

*What I carried away was simple, yet profound: connection. Connection to each other, to community, to Country.*

*We gathered with incredible presenters, visionaries, researchers, and advocates who each sparked powerful momentum for doing more to protect our planet and reimagine systems for health and sustainability. The conversations were bold, the insights transformative, and the collective energy was humbling.*

*I left the symposium feeling inspired, energised and hopeful about what's possible when we collaborate across professions and disciplines. It's exciting to see the momentum building.*

*This wasn't just an event it was a call to action. A reminder that planetary health is everyone's business, and together, we can do more.*

*This was one of the most collaborative, connected, and nourishing symposiums I've ever been part of.*

*What an exceptional day! Met some amazing humans, and felt heartened to be part of this hopeful and passionate community.*



## GREEN GOWN AWARD – DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR TRACY LEVETT



Distinguished Professor Tracy Levett-Jones was the recipient of the Staff Sustainability Champion award which recognised her accomplishments as a researcher and educator with significant influence across the health sector along with her commitment to addressing both the impact of healthcare on the environment and the effects of climate change on human health.

Green Gown Awards recognise sustainability best practice within the Australasian tertiary education sector. The awards are administered by [Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability](#) (ACTS) and are a founding partner of the [International Green Gown Awards](#).

The 2025 Green Gown Awards Australasia were celebrated on October 30 and recognised 40 finalists – both organisational and individual, across 11 categories, with projects that demonstrate leadership, innovation and impact – see [here](#).



# RESEARCH STRATEGIC PILLAR GROUP

## Leads: Tracy Levett-Jones & Jacqui Pich

As the global health landscape rapidly shifts in response to climate change, environmental degradation, and social inequalities, the role of healthcare professionals—particularly nurses and midwives—becomes ever more crucial. The Research Strategic Pillar groups aims to generate evidence that informs practice, policy, and education related to reducing the health sector's environmental and ecological footprints, practicing sustainably to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapting healthcare systems to respond to climate uncertain futures.

Our commitment to creating a strong evidence base for our work by is illustrated by the number of [research projects](#) in progress, including both clinical projects and educational studies. As well as publishing [journal articles](#) and reports, we contribute to scholarly dialogue and debate through discussion papers and editorials. We also engage in a wide range of strategies to disseminate our research including books, conference presentations, forums, [blogs](#) and social media. For more information about our research, see our [website](#) and [LinkedIn](#) page.

## PLANETARY HEALTH RESEARCH FORUMS

In 2025 we commenced a series of regular online planetary health research forums, coordinated by Dr Naomi Tutucci and Professor Jane Maguire. The forums are open to both Collaborative members and external staff, students and industry partners. Collectively the forums reached an audience of over 100 people in 2025, with connections being made between like-minded planetary health nurses and midwives.

April's forum explored how nurses' and midwives' leadership, advocacy and activism influences healthcare during the climate crisis. This was a particularly timely given its proximity to the federal election in May. Presenters Catelyn Richards, PhD Candidate (UTS), and Mark Holmes, PhD Candidate (USQ), shared their inspiring stories of activism and advocacy in planetary health.

The August forum focused on the opportunities and challenges for teaching planetary health and sustainable practices in nursing programs. Associate Professor Jacqui Pich (UTS) showcased the results of the evaluation of the 'Healthy Planet, Healthy People' educational boardgame; Dr Gemma Saravanos (USYD) profiled a study that explored undergraduate nursing students' attitudes, knowledge and practices towards sustainability in clinical simulation; and Anna Foster, PhD Candidate (UTS), outlined the results of her systematic review that examined the effectiveness of current educational approaches for teaching planetary health, sustainability and climate change in undergraduate healthcare programs.

We wrapped up our Planetary Health Research Forums in October with a focus on practice-based initiatives to improve planetary health. Our two presenters, Dr Carol Crevacore (ECU) and Dr Wayne Varndell (UTS and Prince of Wales Hospital), challenged our use of gloves and nitrous oxide from a planetary health perspective. Using strong research methodologies to investigate clinical use of these greenhouse gas contributing medical products, they hope to inform policy and procedure in ways that protect patients and planet. A linked paper titled 'Time to Hang Up the Gloves: A Scoping Review of Evidence on Non-Sterile Glove Use During Intravenous Antimicrobial Preparation and Administration' was published by the Journal of Advanced Nursing and can be found [here](#).

We look forward to joining you in 2026 for more awe-inspiring presentations and discussions.



## SPOTLIGHT ON DOCTORAL STUDENTS

As a Collaborative, we are committed to supporting and empowering early career academics and Higher Degree Research candidates. This year, our PhD Candidates have continued to excel and inspire us with their innovative approaches and drive to make an impact. Below we focus four of our current PhD students:

## Jack Cornish, PhD Candidate and Lecturer (UTS)



Jack presenting at the Australian College of Nursing National Nursing Forum

Jack Cornish's study seeks to understand how undergraduate nursing programs can prepare students to engage in planetary health activism. His literature review titled 'Examining the effectiveness of teaching political activism to undergraduate nursing students: A scoping review' has just been published in

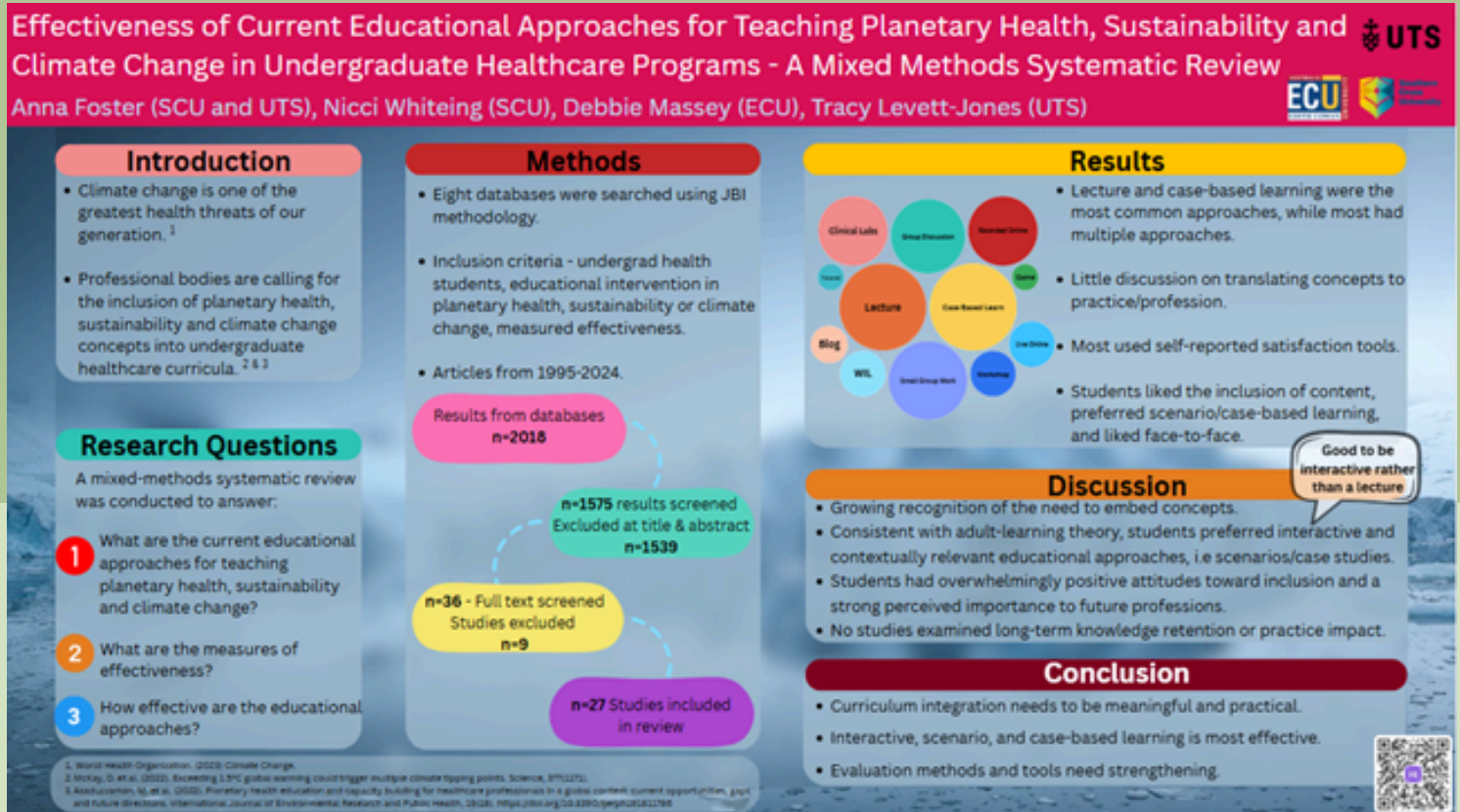
[Nurse Education Today](#) and has been presented at the ACN's 2025 National Nursing Forum (pictured) and our recent Planetary Health symposium. This scoping review explored teaching practices relative to activism in undergraduate nursing and speaks to the gap in measuring teaching outcomes effectively. Jack is employing a mixed methods exploratory sequential design and is currently analysing focus group data exploring students' perceptions of activism and its role in nursing and climate justice. Next steps include the creation of a validated tool with which to measure nurse activist potential, as well as the piloting of activism education within undergraduate nursing programs.

For many within the planetary health community, the interdependence between human health and the health of the planet is inseparable. Yet how this understanding translates into the daily practices and commitments of nurses, and into tangible responses to ecological threats, remains poorly defined. Catelyn's doctoral research is examining how planetary health principles inform nursing practice and exploring the advocacy and policy mechanisms required to build a health system that supports both human and planetary wellbeing. To achieve this, Catelyn is conducting an explanatory sequential mixed methods study, beginning with a cross-sectional survey and followed by qualitative analysis to deepen understanding of the survey findings.

## Catelyn Richards, PhD Candidate (UTS) and Climate Change Officer (ANMF)



Catelyn presenting at the NSW Nurses and Midwives Professional Day



Anna Foster is examining current educational approaches for teaching planetary health, sustainability and climate change in undergraduate healthcare programs. To address this, the first stage of Anna's study was a systematic review that analysed the evidence from 27 studies from 9 countries.

The key findings from the review were recently presented as a poster (see below) at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sustainability, Climate, and Health Collaboration Forum, held at the University of Sydney. Anna was one of the winners of the poster competition (congratulations Anna!) and as a result was asked to give an impromptu presentation on the day.



**Greg Melbourne, PhD Candidate (UTS)  
and Research CNC (South Western  
Sydney Local Health District)**

In the face of the increasing incidence and frequency of extreme weather natural disaster events that Australia endures, the adverse effects these events have on vulnerable cohorts in the community is increasing. Exposure to extreme weather events is associated with increases in the exacerbation and development of a variety of chronic health conditions, including cardiovascular disease. Quantitative investigations have

identified increases in the rate of hospital presentation, admission and incidence of mortality due to cardiovascular disease during and in the period following exposure to extreme weather events, however, an understanding of the experiences of people involved in these events is lacking. Greg Melbourne's doctoral study will explore the needs of people with cardiovascular disease and their lived experience of extreme weather events. Greg will also explore the perceptions of disaster response agency personnel involved in these events.



## EXAMPLES OF RECENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

Members of the Collaborative have been involved in a number of funded and unfunded [research projects](#) this year. Selected examples include:

Enhancing midwifery course curricula:  
Validating knowledge and skills in  
climate change and planetary health.  
Investigators: Christine Catling, Erica  
McIntyre, Tracy Levett-Jones. See  
resulting publication [here](#).

Climate Change in Nursing Education:  
A bibliometric analysis of scholarly  
outputs. Investigators: Tracy Levett-  
Jones, Melissa Mastorovich, Aletha  
Ward & Justin Fontenot. See resulting  
publication [here](#).

Development and preliminary validation of the Planetary Empathy Scale: An international study.

Investigators: Tracy Levett-Jones, Katie J Tunks Leach, Heidi Honegger Rogers, Catelyn Richards, Aletha Ward and Samuel Lapkin. See resulting publication [here](#).

Sustainable midwifery: Educational Programs for healthcare providers in the Anthropocene Era. Investigators: Jutharat Attawet, Teresa Lewis, Pratibha Bhandari, Shirley Qiu, Cong Wang. See resulting publication [here](#).



# EDUCATION STRATEGIC PILLAR GROUP

**Leads: Tracey Moroney & Lorraine Fields**

This year has been one of growth, collaboration, and innovation for the Education Strategic Pillar. Across universities and practice settings, our members have continued to advance the integration of planetary health principles into nursing and health education - through curriculum design, simulation, research, and resource development.

## THE 'HEALTHY PLANET, HEALTHY PEOPLE' EDUCATIONAL BOARD GAME

The 'Healthy Planet, Healthy People' educational board game continues to foster active and experiential learning. Both the physical and digital games are available in an Australian and an international version.



Excitingly, its use has expanded beyond nursing and is now being used by Dr Liza Barbour at Monash University in both the Master of Dietetics and Bachelor of Nutrition Science programs - highlighting its cross-disciplinary reach and real-world relevance. [Explore the game here.](#)



The project has received strong support from the school and the wider health professional community. Students have presented at local, national and international forums, advocating for change in health professional education. Locally, the report card establishes a baseline of planetary health content in nursing curriculum and serves as a valuable resource to inform improvements. The full report is available on the [Planetary Health Report Card](#) website. A Planetary Health Collaborative blog article on the project is also available: [Planetary health in pre-registration nursing curriculum: Our experience of participating in the Planetary Health Report Card](#).

## NEW RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS

### **Planetary Health Toolkit: Learning Activities and Assessment Items for Healthcare Students**

Distinguished Professor Tracy Levett-Jones is leading the development of the Planetary Health Toolkit. This exciting new resource was developed by 23 members of the Collaborative representing 13 universities. It includes a range of planetary health assessment items and teaching and learning activities and will support educators to integrate planetary health and sustainability across curricula through practical, evidence-informed strategies. Our aim in developing the toolkit is to catalyse transformative change in higher education so that graduates will be equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to safeguard the health of the planet, now and into the future.

The [Planetary Health, Climate Change and Sustainable Healthcare: Essential Knowledge and Skills Framework](#) was used as a pedagogical scaffold in the toolkit with the aim of supporting curricula integration. Through engagement with the activities and assessment items, learners will be encouraged to explore the health impacts of climate and environmental change, develop their understanding of planetary health, mitigation and adaptation, practise communication, discharge planning and advocacy skills, and design solutions that build system resilience and sustainability.

The activities can be used in flexible and creative ways across undergraduate and postgraduate programs to promote deep learning and authentic engagement with the principles of planetary health.



## Resource Stewardship and Sustainability in Clinical Simulation

Clinical simulation is an important learning tool in contemporary nursing education; however, it is resource-intensive and associated with significant environmental impacts, including the generation of waste and carbon emissions. Educators from the University of Sydney's Clinical Skills and Simulation Education Unit and Sydney Nursing School recently undertook a mixed method research study to explore undergraduate nursing student's attitudes, knowledge and practices related to sustainability in clinical simulation.

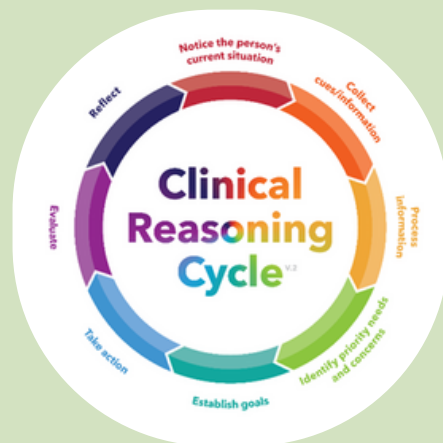
The project team first developed an education module that embedded sustainability principles, with a focus on 'Resource Stewardship and Sustainability', linking concepts to real-world clinical practice where possible. The impact of the education was then assessed through waste audits and student surveys. Results suggest that student nurses are both capable and motivated to practise sustainably during simulation, and that this may be enhanced through embedded sustainability education. However, students also described a range of barriers to sustainable practice which must be addressed. The publication is available at [Nurse Education Today, 2025](#)

## Potter and Perry's Fundamentals of Nursing

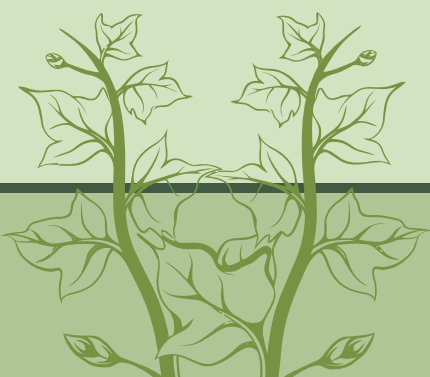
Dr Lorraine Fields co-authored a chapter in the upcoming edition of Potter and Perry's Fundamentals of Nursing (7<sup>th</sup> edn), with Professor Tracey Moroney as editor. Informed by the [Planetary Health, Climate Change and Sustainable Healthcare: Essential Knowledge and Skills Framework](#), an outcome of a Delphi study, the chapter integrates key planetary health principles, providing evidence-based guidance for embedding sustainability into nursing education and practice.

## Clinical Reasoning: Learning to think like a nurse

In the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of 'Clinical Reasoning: Learning to think like a nurse' edited by Distinguished Professor Tracy Levett-Jones, planetary health stewardship is a core integrating theme. Planetary Health Stewardship refers to the ethical and practical responsibility to protect and sustain the natural systems on which human health and well-being depend.



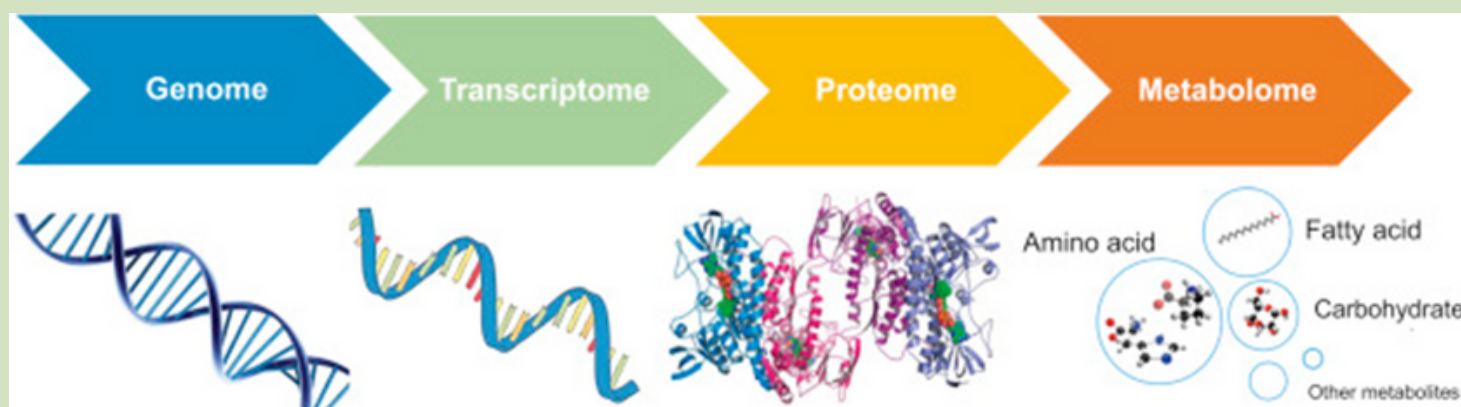
It emphasises the interconnectedness of human and environmental health, and the need to promote long-term, equitable actions to preserve the planet's ecosystems. This book also includes a new chapter titled '**Caring for a person with a heat illness**' written by Mark Holmes, Dr Tracey Tulleners and Dr Aletha Ward.



## Planetary Health Vignettes: Integrating Omics and Environmental Insight into Nursing Education

This project is being led by Christina Whitehead, UTS and Jessica Rendel, Manager at Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology.

The Planetary Health Vignettes initiative introduces a suite of teaching cases designed to illuminate how environmental and genomic factors converge in clinical nursing and midwifery practice. Each vignette situates a patient scenario within a planetary health context, such as heatwaves, flooding, or pollution, while integrating multi-omics data (genomics, proteomics, epigenomics, metabolomics, and transcriptomics) to demonstrate the precision health implications of climate-related exposures



Developed for tertiary education, the vignettes engage students in clinical reasoning, ethical reflection, and cognitive bias recognition through realistic, data-informed cases. Each case aligns with the [Planetary Health, Climate Change and Sustainable Healthcare: Essential Knowledge and Skills Framework](#) and can be

embedded across undergraduate and postgraduate curricula. Students analyse omics data, identify environmental determinants of health, and apply culturally safe and sustainable care strategies that connect personal health, population health, and planetary wellbeing.

By linking the molecular to the ecological, the vignettes bridge two critical paradigms in contemporary nursing: precision healthcare and planetary health. They equip future nurses and midwives to interpret complex biological information while understanding the systemic and environmental conditions shaping health outcomes. The approach encourages transdisciplinary literacy, critical awareness of social and ecological justice, and preparedness for climate-responsive practice.

The Planetary Health Vignettes exemplify how innovative curriculum design can cultivate scientific depth, ethical sensitivity, and ecological accountability, qualities essential for nursing and midwifery graduates who will lead in a rapidly changing health landscape.



## FUTURE TEACHING AND LEARNING PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

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Several projects are currently in progress, reflecting the Education Pillar's ongoing commitment to innovation and collaboration. Examples of these include:

- Sustainability and AI discussion paper (Lead: Professor Tracey Moroney)
- Sustainability in simulated learning spaces: A national survey of Australian nursing schools (Lead: Melisa Young)
- Planetary Health multi-institution Hackathon (Lead: Professor Tracey Moroney)



# POLICY AND ADVOCACY STRATEGIC PILLAR GROUP

**Leads: Aletha Ward & Elaine Correia Moll**

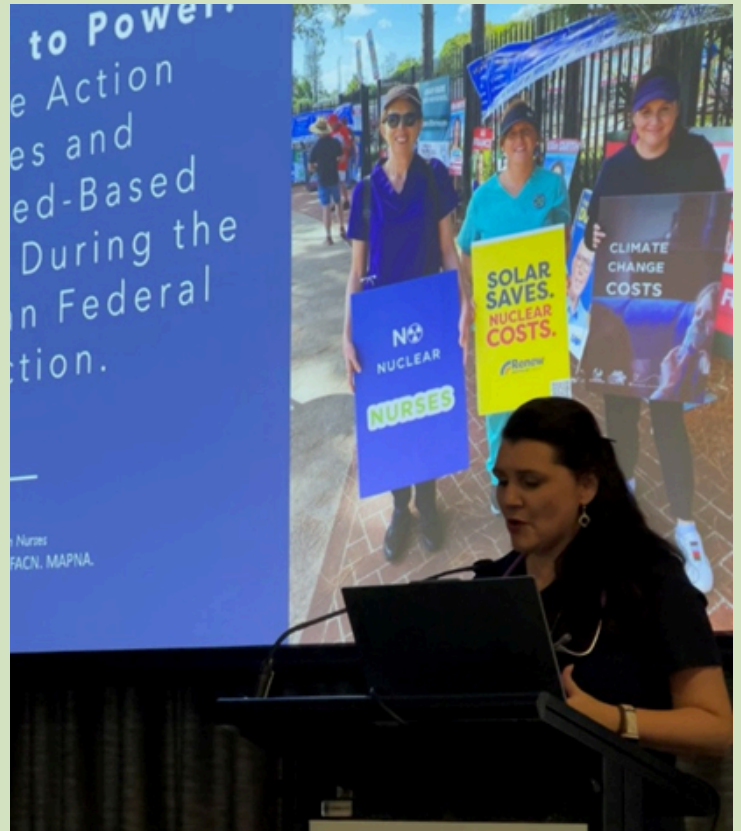
In 2025, the strategic Policy and Advocacy Pillar group went from strength to strength, amplifying the collective voice of nurses and midwives in shaping Australia's climate and health policy agenda. Through coordinated campaigns, national submissions, and public advocacy, members positioned the profession as a leading force for evidence-informed, equity-driven, and climate-responsive health reform. From frontline engagement during the federal election to national consultations and strategic media commentary, the members of the Policy and Advocacy Pillar group have worked to ensure that the nursing and midwifery professions are recognised as essential contributors to a sustainable and climate-ready health system.

## Australian Federal Election – Frontline Action

Members of the Policy and Advocacy Pillar group demonstrated frontline engagement during the 2025 Australian Federal Election, participating in letterbox drops and volunteering at polling booths to raise awareness of climate–health priorities. These efforts aligned with our commitment to advocate for policies that position health as central to climate action.



Dr Aletha Ward and Dr Tracey Tulleners presented on some of the groups advocacy outcomes and reflections at the Inaugural Planetary Health for Nurses and Midwives Symposium held at the University of Technology Sydney in September 2025, highlighting the power of collective action within the profession.



Some of the members of the Policy and Advocacy Pillar and collaborators at the Planetary Health for Nurses and Midwives Symposium. From left to right: Mr Mark Holmes, Ms Elaine Correia Moll, Mr Jack Cornish, Ms Catelyn Richards (ANMF), Dr Aletha Ward, Ms Michelle Isles (CAHA).



## Open Letter Advocating for Australia and Pacific to co-host COP31

# Health community calls for COP31 to be co-hosted by Australia and the Pacific



Published by Layla Humphreys

July 17, 2025

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The Climate and Health Alliance has brought together a powerful coalition from across the health community to call on the Australian Government to champion a bid for an Australia and the Pacific co-hosted COP31 that puts people and health at the heart of climate action, and push for a COP31 that safeguards health, strengthens partnerships and secures a healthy future for people and planet.

At launch, the Open Letter has 100 signatories comprised 41 health organisations and 59 individuals from across the health community.

The Open Letter '**United for climate and health: A healthy vision for a COP31 in Australia and the Pacific**' can be read in full [here](#).

In 2025 the Planetary Health for Nurses and Midwives Collaborative proudly joined the Climate and Health Alliance's open letter advocating for Australia and the Pacific to co-host COP31 ([https://www.caha.org.au/open\\_letter\\_cop31](https://www.caha.org.au/open_letter_cop31)). As a signatory, we supported the call for a Pacific-centred climate summit that recognises the health impacts of climate change and prioritises equity, adaptation, and resilience. Our advocacy reflected the nursing and midwifery professions' leadership in framing climate change as a health issue and advancing policy solutions that protect both people and the planet."



## National Health and Medical Research Strategy

In 2025, the Planetary Health for Nurses and Midwives Collaborative provided a formal submission to the Draft National Health and Medical Research Strategy Consultation. Our submission called for climate change to be recognised as the defining health challenge of the century and advocated for its integration across all strategic goals, focus areas, and enablers.

We emphasised the importance of translation pathways to ensure adaptation and resilience research informs policy and frontline practice, the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governance and data sovereignty, and investment in climate-resilient research infrastructure. This submission reflected our ongoing leadership in shaping a sustainable and equitable national health research agenda.



## National Climate Risk Assessment and Sector Advocacy

Throughout 2025, members of the Policy and Advocacy Pillar closely monitored the development of Australia's first National Climate Risk Assessment (NCRA), recognising its potential to shape the nation's approach to health and climate preparedness. When the NCRA was finally released in September 2025, it marked a vital moment for the sector—validating long-held concerns of nurses and midwives about the escalating health impacts of extreme weather events. In response, members released the article titled:

[Carrying Water Through Fire: Investing in the Resilience of our Communities - ANMJ](#) on 18

September 2025. The piece, authored by Catelyn Richards, Dr Aletha Ward, and Distinguished Professor Tracy Levett-Jones, reflected the anticipation surrounding the assessment and urged the government to fund and operationalise the National Health and Climate Strategy. It amplified the nursing and midwifery voice in calling for investment in adaptation, workforce resilience, and climate-ready health systems

## **National Climate Risk Assessment and Sector Advocacy**

Members of the Policy and Advocacy Pillar remain closely engaged with the ongoing review of the NMBA Registered Nurse Standards for Practice. We are keen to see the release of the updated standards, anticipating stronger alignment with the expanding role of nurses in planetary health. The Collaborative has consistently advocated for the inclusion of environmental stewardship, sustainability, and climate adaptation within professional standards, ensuring they reflect the responsibility of nurses and midwives to protect both human and planetary health through practice, leadership, and education.



# PRACTICE STRATEGIC PILLAR GROUP

**Leads: Christine Catling, Suzanne Sheppard-law & Wayne Varndell**

Over the year, members in the Practice Pillar have been focussing on initiatives and innovations at the coalface of the clinical wards and units where nurses and midwives' work. Often these are driven by dedicated individuals or groups, supported by their Local Health Districts [1]. Below, several practical, replicable initiatives aimed at reducing healthcare-related waste and emissions are outlined.

It is clear that there is an urgent need for sustainable practices within healthcare, given the sector's significant environmental footprint—responsible for 4.4% of global emissions, surpassing that of the aviation industry. Some of these include replacing single-use tourniquets with reusable silicone alternatives, addressing the habitual overuse of non-sterile gloves, recycling medication blister packs, introducing reusable 'blueys' and promoting cloth nappies. Each initiative, described below, is grounded in evidence and demonstrates how small, targeted changes can yield substantial environmental and health benefits.



The reusable tourniquet initiative, trialled in a rural NSW hospital, revealed both infection control risks and environmental costs associated with single-use devices. Staff responded positively to the reusable silicone tourniquets, though communication gaps led to some being discarded prematurely [2].

Glove overuse—driven by professional socialisation and misconceptions—has been found to compromise patient safety, increase healthcare-associated infections, and contribute to environmental degradation [3,4]. A scoping review on non-sterile glove use during intravenous antimicrobial preparation and administration, recently conducted by Dr Carol Crevacore and team [3], provided evidence to inform sustainable and evidence-based clinical practice, helping to reduce waste and enhance patient care.



Other innovations include Pharmacycle, a national program for recycling blister packs, and a Perth pharmacist's local solution involving metal recyclers. Both efforts highlight logistical and financial barriers but also community enthusiasm [5].

Another initiative, the Glen Eira-led Nappy Project demonstrated the effectiveness of education and inter-council collaboration in promoting cloth nappies, achieving a 75% reduction in disposable nappy waste among participating families [6, 7]



Disposable plastic-backed pads, commonly known as "blueys," are widely used in healthcare settings to protect surfaces from bodily fluids, but a heavy reliance on plastic and their single-use design poses a significant environmental challenge. These products contribute substantially to clinical waste, often ending up incinerated or in landfills, where they release greenhouse gases and persist as microplastic pollutants [8]. The most effective long-term solution lies in transitioning to reusable blueys, which offer dramatic reductions in energy use, carbon emissions, and solid waste, while also improving patient comfort and cost-effectiveness over time.

Collectively, these case studies underscore the potential for healthcare organisations to lead in planetary health by embedding sustainability into everyday clinical practice. Driving meaningful change requires coordinated efforts across nursing leadership, procurement, and waste management to embed sustainable continence care into everyday practice. There are many more ways we can reduce our carbon footprint in healthcare – get in touch with us if you know of a great innovation in this space; we would love to hear from you.



## ONGOING PROJECTS

Several projects are currently in progress, reflecting the Practice Pillar's ongoing commitment to practice change. Examples of these include:

Assessing the impact of bushfire-related air pollution on emergency department presentations and patient outcomes. **Investigators:** Shirley Qui, Eamon Merrick, Marg Fry.

Enhancing sustainable practices by reducing unnecessary glove use in health care education and services. **Investigators:** Amy Kim, Mercy Thomas, Sarah Park, Carol Crevacore, Ju Attawet.

Exploring the impact of heat-related illness in older Australians. **Investigators:** Vigours, S. Lorber-Kasunic, J., Stadnyk, A., Liu, D., Page, K., Parker, D., Prior, J., Thomas, L., Tracy, M., Levett-Jones, T.

Clinical care processes that mitigate environmental damage: A scoping review. **Investigators:** Erica McIntyre, Rupert Legg, Jason Prior, Tracy Levett-Jones, Sam Vigours, Edgar Lui.

Measuring the impact of extreme climate-related temperatures on the utilisation of the emergency department and the impact on people living with a chronic condition: A mixed methods study. **Investigators:** Suzanne Sheppard-Law, Wayne Varndell, Elaine Correia Moll, Jack Cornish

Enhancing heat safety for the vulnerable populations in the Western Pacific Region. **Investigators:** Sharifah Mohidin, Mei-Ling Yeh, Yao-Mei Chen, Sunjoo Kang, Belynda Abbott.

WA Nursing Educator and WA Health **Service Providers – Glove Use Collaboration. Investigators:** Carol Crevacore, Gemma Doleman, Frank Donnelly, Tash Raja Azlan, Olivia Gallagher, Benjamin Hay, Emma Cairns, Holly Denton, Anna Kosek, Deb Lowe, Karen Maxino, Nitasha Narayan, Jacqui Sawle, Melissa Young.

N20 Use and Climate Impact Awareness Project. **Investigator:** Wayne Varndell.



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