



# ‘CREATING A CLIMATE WHERE HEALTH MATTERS’

Getting political to achieve policy outcomes on climate change and health

# Why do we need a climate-health advocacy campaign?

Climate change poses serious threats to the health of people in Australia and globally. Extreme weather including heatwaves, spread of diseases, physical and mental health trauma from disasters and their aftermath, malnutrition and stunted child development from crop failure, displacement due to coastal inundation, forced migration, conflict and war.

## HOWEVER

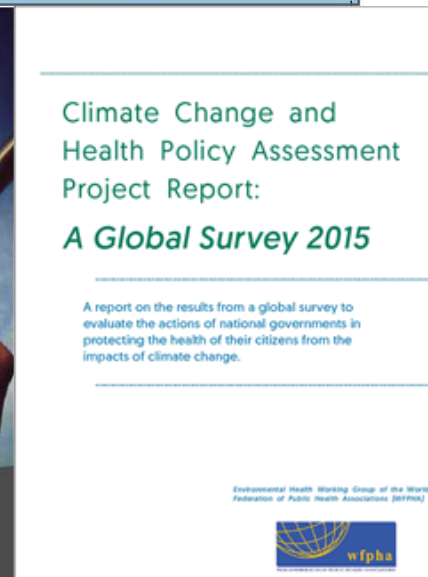
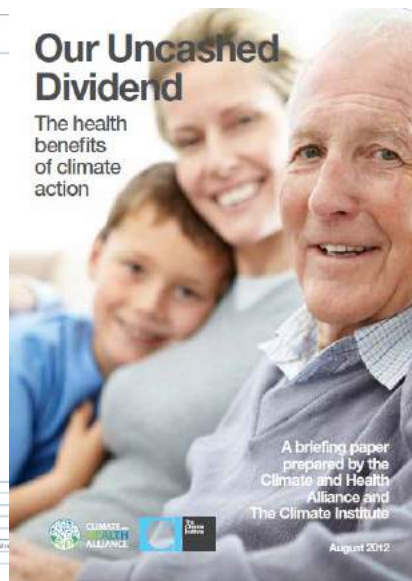
... there is no national response that addresses the human and social aspects of this serious threat. To achieve specific policy outcomes in relation to climate and health, we need to mobilise a larger cohort of health professionals and health organisations to become strong and visible advocates for climate action.



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.

# We've been following the rules....

- Submissions
- Reports
- Briefing papers
- Position papers
- Films
- Meetings
- Lobbying days
- Media releases...





# It's time to scale things up



# What are we proposing?

This campaign involves: outreach and engagement through a national policy consultation with the health sector; skills and development and capacity building among health professionals; and an advocacy for policy campaign directly targeting decision-makers, with a goal of achieving political commitments in relation to a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being.

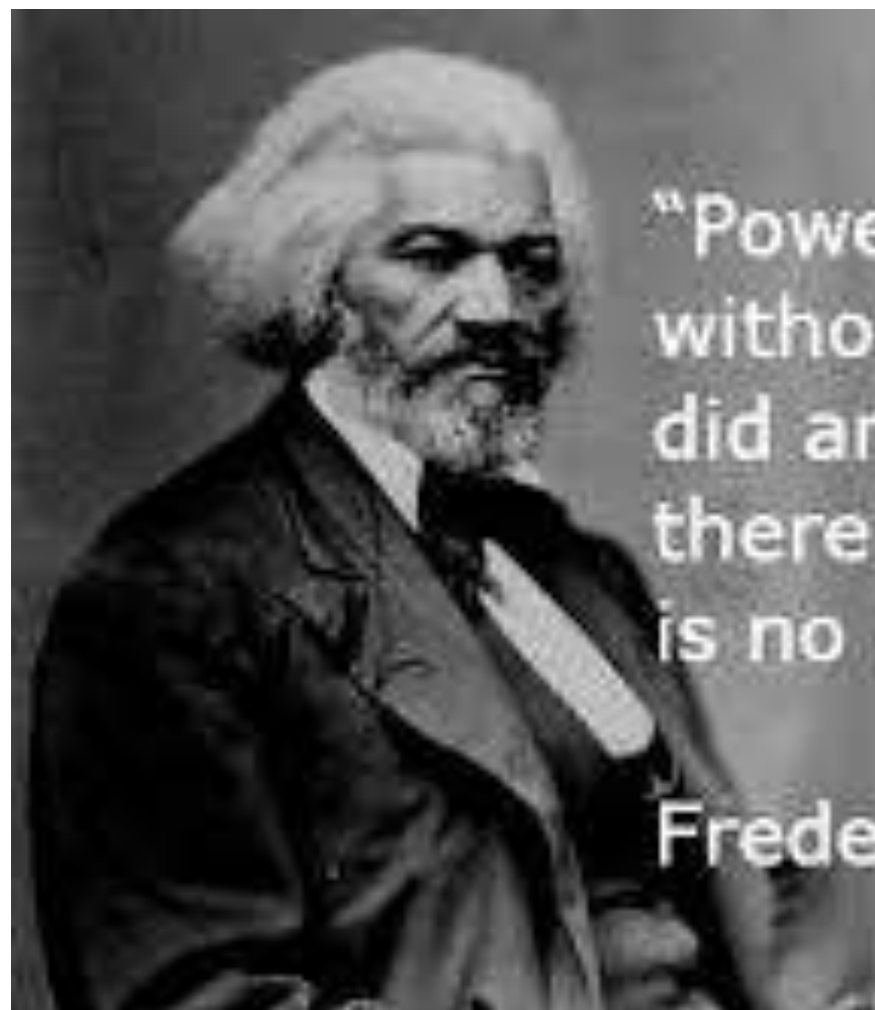


OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.



# We need to build power!





"Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

Frederick Douglass

# What would it look like?

**A National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being** would provide a comprehensive, integrated, national approach to addressing the health risks of climate change, to ensure policies:

- To reduce emissions also reduce risks to health;
- Maximize co-benefits for health and wellbeing;
- Boost community preparedness and climate resilience in the health sector;
- Ensure a vigorous research agenda to identify vulnerable communities, services and infrastructure.



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.



# What's the platform?

- The Paris Agreement (signed by Australia) obliges parties to consider “rights to health” and health benefits of mitigation in their climate plans
- WFPHA report from global survey of climate and health plans
- Global Climate and Health Alliance ‘Health at the COP and Beyond’ report’s recommendation for a health ‘lens’ to be applied to all national climate plans
- Australian Medical Association Position Paper 2015 calls for national strategy on health and climate
- CAHA’s ongoing calls for a national strategy



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.

# We need to create a sense of outrage!

The World Health Organisation has issued a health alert! Two medical journals say climate change is a health emergency!



And yet the Australian government has no climate-health policies and the health ministry says it has no mandate to act on climate change?

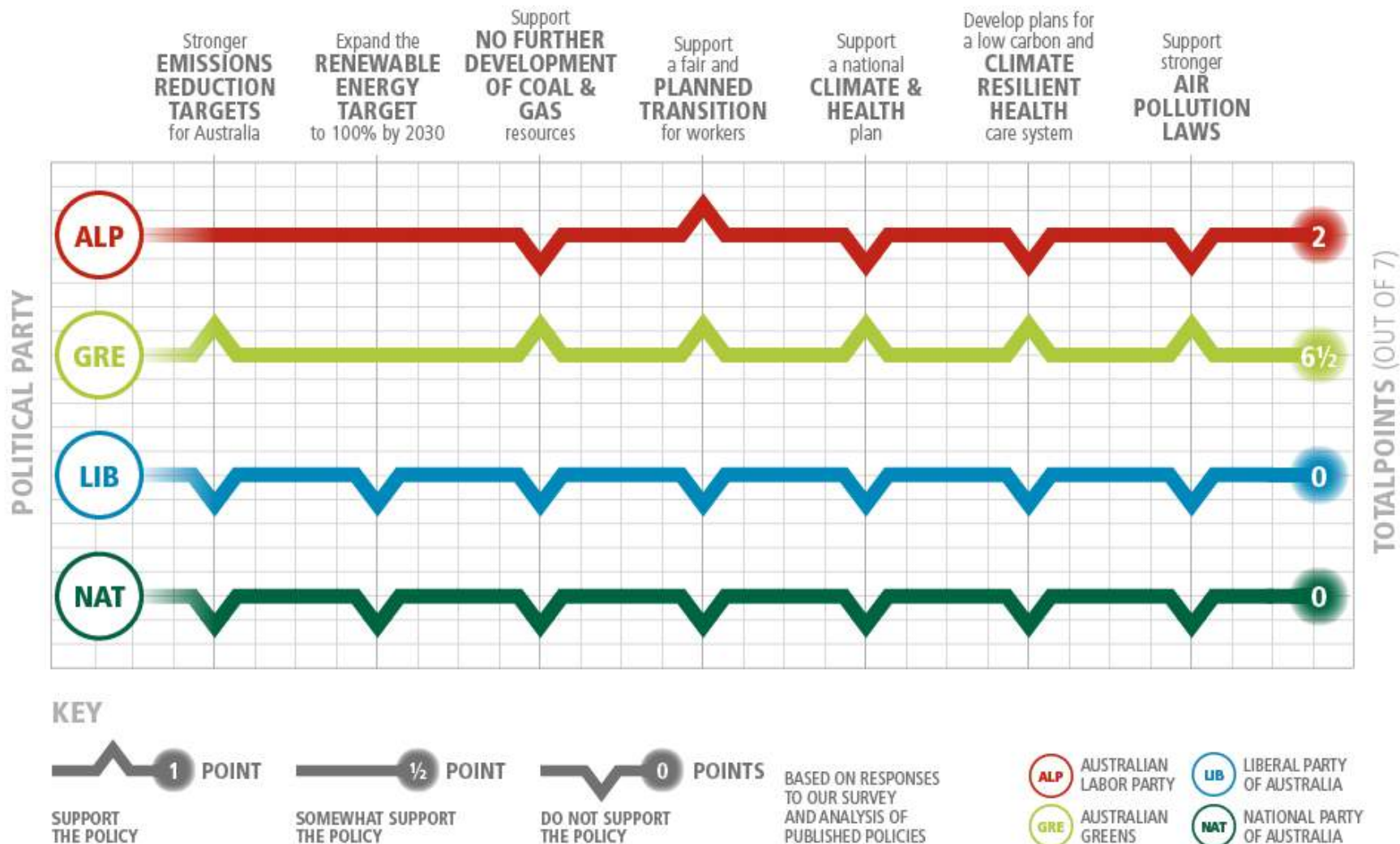


# FEDERAL ELECTION 2016

The health of all Australians is threatened by climate change. This election, how can you use your vote to protect communities from climate change and promote a healthier future? We analysed the policies of the main political parties in Australia – and here are the results.

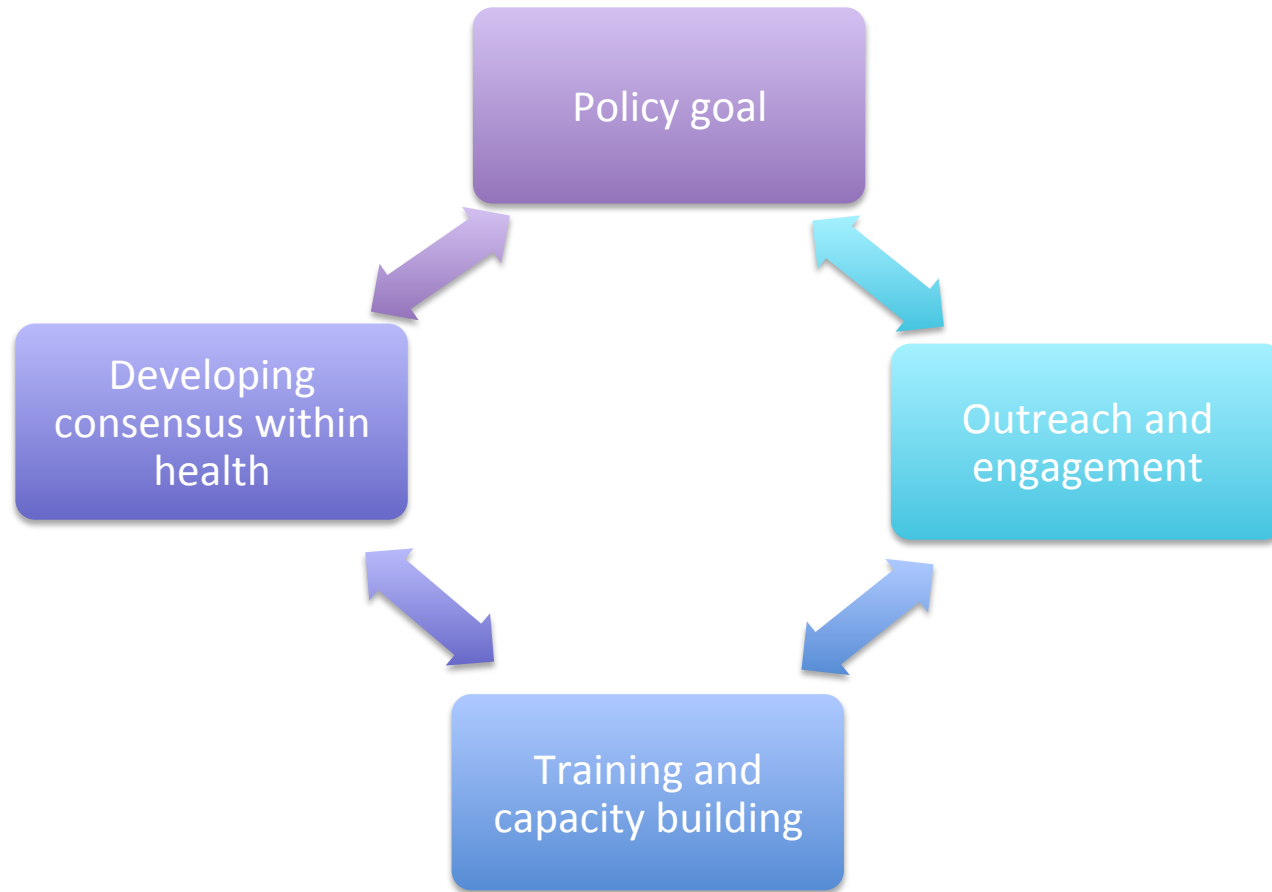


CLIMATE AND  
**HEALTH**  
ALLIANCE





# Theory of change



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.

# Activating health constituencies

Building a powerful movement in support of climate action in Australia requires the activation and engagement of **key constituencies**, in order to make inaction by government/s **politically untenable**.



'The Wave' – health professionals from across the UK unite in preparation for the biggest climate change protest in the world. (London 2009)



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.

# Health (both the professions and the ‘frame’) are key to influencing attitudes and behaviour

The health sector is a key sector in terms of influencing community attitudes and voting behaviour, as health professionals are seen as trusted and respected voices, with no vested interests, other than the public interest.



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.



# The health sector is large



There are around 600,000 health professionals in Australia – the largest group (330,000) nurses and midwives.



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.

# There will be / needs to be political costs

Building a stronger and more visible constituency of advocates for climate action among the health professions will mean greater political costs for politicians and government who fail to respond.



# Supporting broader climate movement goals

Aligned with the common agenda of the climate movement:

- Changing the story (to human and social) rather than environmental)
- Activating a key constituency with credibility, reach, and a moral compass
- Building political power



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.



# Three Key Phases



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.

# Phase 1 (0-12 months)

## Raising awareness and building coalitions

- Strategy meetings with key individuals
- Discussion Paper on a National Strategy for Climate, Health and Well-being
- Online Survey Monkey - to evaluate awareness & respond to ideas  
National Online Discussion Forum 13<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> August 2016 to discuss ideas
  - Testing ideas in Discussion Paper
- Roundtable of health leaders and experts 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016
  - Building consensus for a policy framework
- Demand response from Government
  - Policy Proposal eg Climate and Health Protection Plan / Ten Point Plan or similar



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.

## Phase 2 (12-24 months)

- **Training** for health professionals
  - advocacy and lobbying skills
- **Lobbying actions**
  - Health professionals in federal parliament seeking support for a National Strategy on Climate Health and Wellbeing
- **Engaging media** – climate and health narrative
- **Online campaign**



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.



# Phase 3 (24-36 months)

- **Escalated action**
  - Involving health professionals
  - Highlighting government's irresponsibility in inaction
  - Adding political pressure



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.

# Discussion Paper – key themes

- Establish Meaningful National Emissions Reduction Targets and Policies
- Establish Suitable Governance Arrangements (intergovernmental committee/other)
- Develop the Capacity of the Health Sector
- Enhance Education and Awareness Levels
- Strengthen Communication and Collaboration
- Re-establish National Research Capacity



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.

# Survey and Online Discussion Forum

## Aims:

- To obtain feedback on the ideas on the Discussion Paper – see <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T6WN5VJ>
- To seek the support of healthcare stakeholders in advocating for a National Strategy for Climate, Health and Well-being
- To identify any gaps which may be helpful in considering the next stages of a National Strategy for Climate, Health and Well-being (NSCHW)
- For an invitation to the Online Discussion Forum, visit: <http://bit.ly/2a2bfSX>



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.

# Health Leaders Roundtable – 10<sup>th</sup> October in Canberra

- Bring politicians, experts and health leaders together
- Identify areas of consensus
- Develop a policy proposal
- Target the health minister and decision-makers



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.



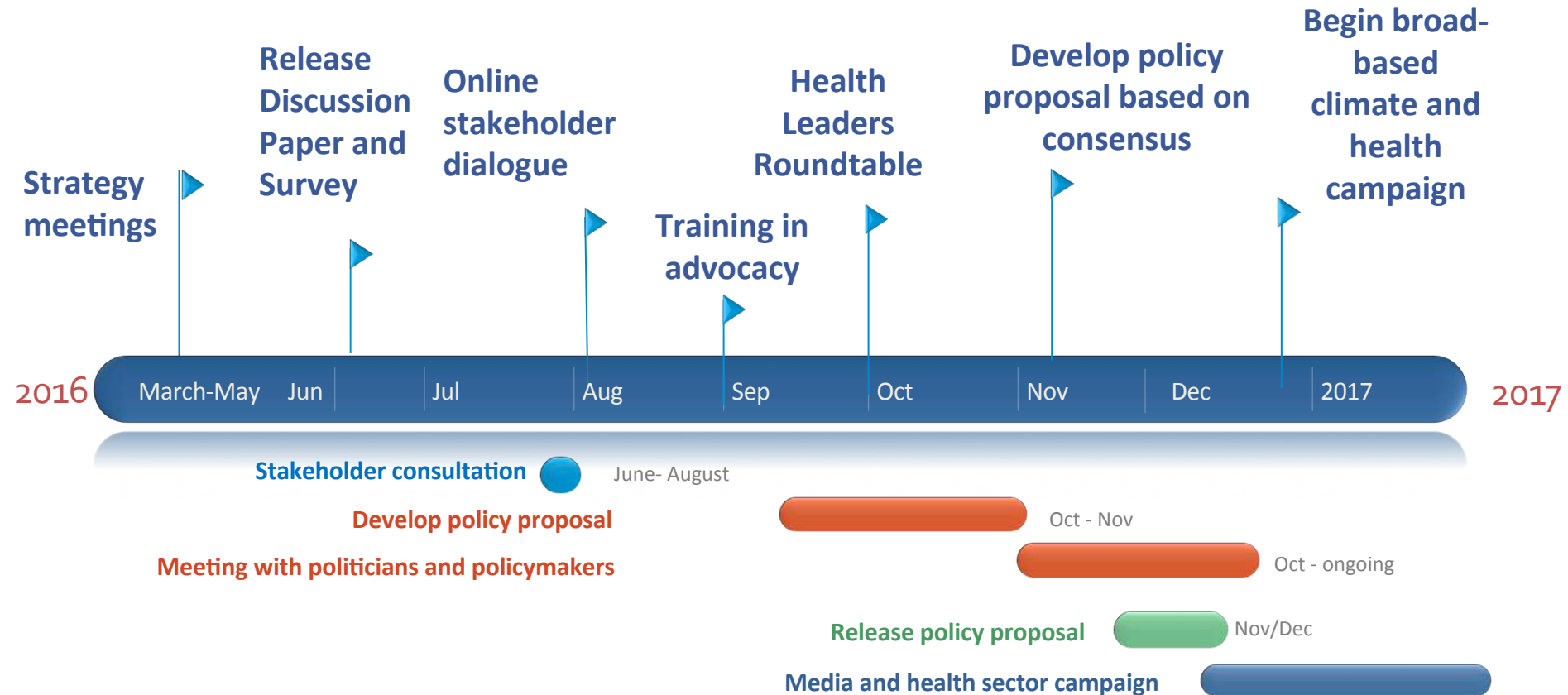
# How is this campaign being developed ?

- Engaging health groups in **existing networks**
- Inviting allies to join in **advocacy, strategic planning** and **community organising**
- **Engaging key health groups and individuals** to help create the strategy
- **Utilising key moments** in the broader climate movement story (People's Climate March -> federal election, Paris ratification, Marrakesh, new research, extreme events)
- **Telling the health story** as part of the broader climate movement story



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.

# Timeline

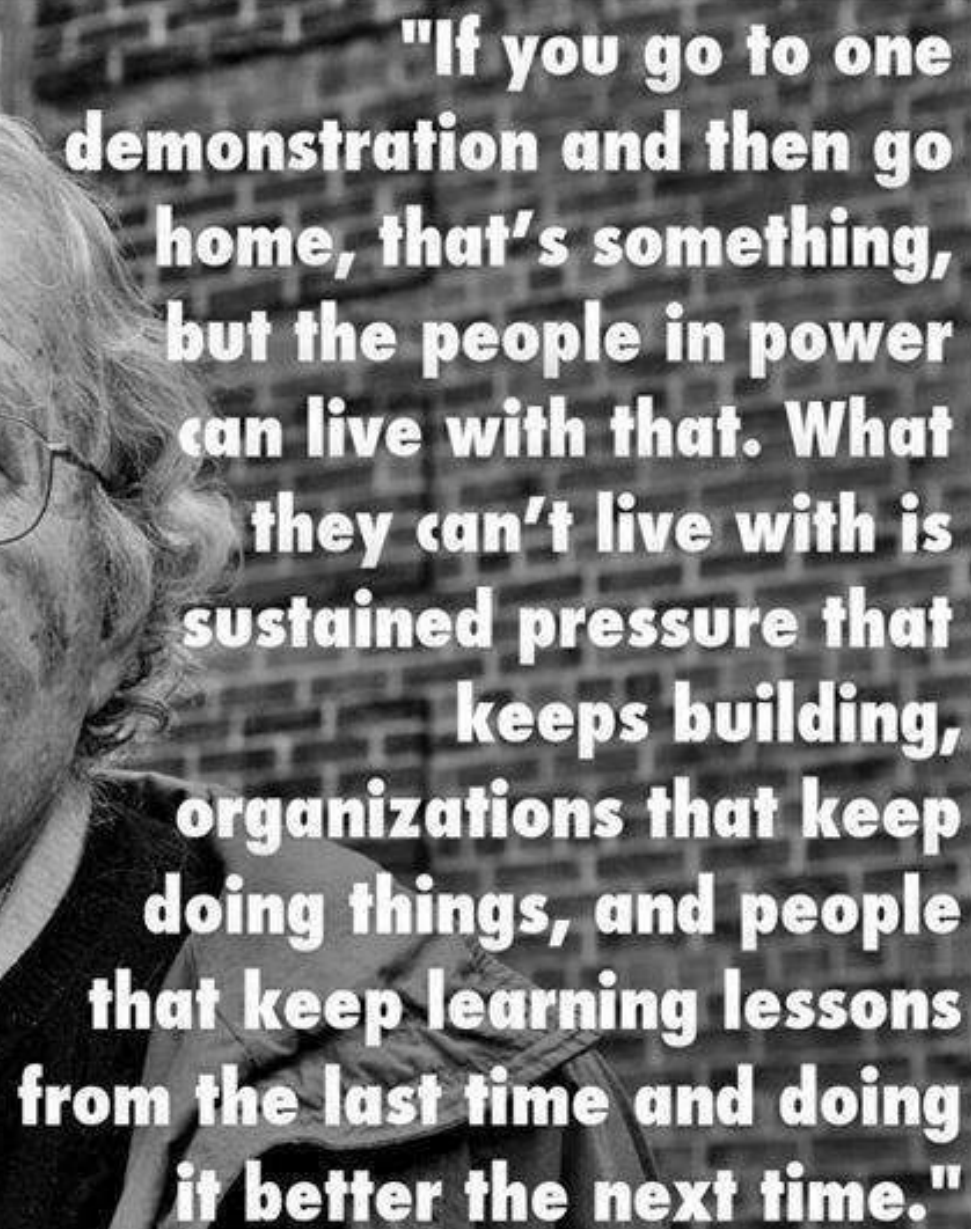


# Where we're headed

- **A stronger constituency of advocates** in the climate and health space (organisations and individuals)
- **Publicising** our demands, the responses of policy-makers, and our opinions of these responses
- **Training campaigners and organisers** in the health sector, **building lasting power**
- **Creating a new social norm** in the health sector of **climate advocacy and action**



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.



**"If you go to one demonstration and then go home, that's something, but the people in power can live with that. What they can't live with is sustained pressure that keeps building, organizations that keep doing things, and people that keep learning lessons from the last time and doing it better the next time."**



# What we have to support us

- A strong network of advocates worldwide
- A two year process of tracking climate and health policy globally
- The support of some of the strongest influencers on health policy in Australia
- Evidence, passion, numbers
- A commitment to winning



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.

# How you can help

This campaign is largely run (and, thus far, financed) by individuals who are passionate about protecting health from climate change.

You **can join the campaign** – email [campaigns@caha.org.au](mailto:campaigns@caha.org.au) with subject line: Sign me up for the climate-health campaign!

**Email your MP and Senators** at <http://climateandhealth.good.do/act-on-climate-to-protect-health/email-your-local-mp-and-senators/>



OUR CLIMATE.  
OUR HEALTH.