



**Australian  
Nursing &  
Midwifery  
Federation**  
VICTORIAN BRANCH

535 Elizabeth Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Box 12600  
A'Beckett Street PO  
Melbourne Victoria 8006

**[anmfvic.asn.au](http://anmfvic.asn.au)**

t 03 9275 9333

f 03 9275 9344

e [records@anmfvic.asn.au](mailto:records@anmfvic.asn.au)

ABN 80 571 091 192  
RTOID: 22609

**Contact person:**

Roslyn Morgan  
Environmental Health Officer  
[rmorgan@anmfvic.asn.au](mailto:rmorgan@anmfvic.asn.au)

# **ANMF (Vic Branch) Submission into Victoria's emissions reduction target for 2035**

Lisa Fitzpatrick  
Secretary  
ANMF (Vic Branch)

9 May 2022

### Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) Victorian branch, background

The ANMF is Australia's largest national union and professional nursing and midwifery organisation. ANMF's eight state and territory branches represent the professional, industrial and political interests of more than 300,000 nurses, midwives and carers across the country.

ANMF (Vic Branch) has a membership of over 96 000 comprising nurses, midwives and personal care workers (however titled and working predominantly in the private residential aged care sector). Our members are employed in a range of health services and clinical specialties including hospitals, aged care, community health, mental health, maternal and child health, alcohol and other drug sector, medical clinics, prisons and the Australian Red Cross Blood Service.

The ANMF (Vic Branch) actively promotes action on climate change and environmental sustainability. Nurses, midwives and carers see daily the ways in which the community's health is inextricably linked to the health of our environment. Negative health impacts of climate change and environmental degradation affect the key social determinants of health and damage social and community structures. These negative health impacts in turn increase pressure on already burdened health services and our members.

ANMF (Vic Branch) welcomes the opportunity to submit to Victoria's emissions reduction target (ERT) for 2035. Our recommendation builds on the targets we endorsed in the 2019 enquiry.

### ANMF (Vic Branch) endorsed positions on Emissions Reduction Targets (ERT).

#### 1. Climate change requires urgent action

ANMF (Vic Branch) 2019 Union solidarity motion with School Strike 4 Climate recognises climate change as an existential threat and global emergency (IPCC 2018) that requires immediate and wide-reaching action within the next decade to avoid disaster. This recognition shapes our response.

#### 2. 2030 ERT

In 2019 ANMF (Vic Branch) supported a Victorian Trades Hall Council (VTHC) submission calling for a 67-75% reduction by 2030, targeting a 1.5°C temperature rise.

#### 3. 2035 ERT:

ANMF (Vic Branch) has endorsed calls for a national 75% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels by 2030 to reach net zero by 2035.

### The science behind the targets

The underpinning rationale was that the targets should be consistent with the goal of limiting temperature increases to 1.5°C.

The latest scientific report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the sixth assessment.<sup>1</sup> Lead author of the recently released third report in same, Professor Frank Jotzo,<sup>2</sup> states

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/>

<sup>2</sup> director of the Centre for Climate Economics and Policy at the Australian National University, and a lead author of the "National and sub-national policies and institutions" chapter, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2022-04-05/ipcc-climate-change-reportmitigation-carbon-emissions-electric/100959560>

greenhouse gas emissions must peak by 2025 to stay under 1.5 degrees of warming and would require immediate and deep emissions reductions in all sectors of all regions of the world. 2.0°C would trigger damage several magnitudes worse than 1.5°C. Keeping under this will require an “abrupt acceleration” of effort after 2030.<sup>3</sup>

- a. The Combet report recommended this would require an ERT of reduce emissions by 43% below 2005 levels by 2025 and 67% below 2005 levels by 2030. The Victorian Government target of 28-33% by 2025, and 45-50% for 2030 falls short of this.
- b. The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA), is a coalition of health care stakeholders from across the sector from medicine, nursing, public health, social work, psychology, health care service providers, research, academic institutions and healthcare consumers. CAHA has called for a 75% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels by 2030 and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035
- c. The Climate Council<sup>4</sup> observes that the faster we can cut emissions, the more climate damage we can avoid. They too called for at least halving our emissions by 2030, and reaching net zero no later than 2035.

ANMF (Vic Branch) notes the Victorian State government is signatory to:

- a) the *Paris Pledge for Action* to limit global warming to well below 2°C
- b) the *Climate Leadership Declaration* to pursue efforts to limit warming to below 1.5°C.<sup>5</sup>

Victoria’s climate change strategy economic analysis finds that to achieve our net-zero target, we have a choice between taking strong action to reduce emissions now or leaving the heavy lifting until later decades.<sup>6</sup>

## The Healthcare sector

### 1. A National Sustainable Health Unit (NSHU)

ANMF (Vic Branch) Branch Council has endorsed the demand from Doctors for the Environment, for a NSHU, funded and resourced by the Federal Government and supporting State branches.

A NSHU would:

- a. Standardise and benchmark the measurement of carbon emissions in the health sector
- b. Develop a roadmap for, and assist with implementation of, emissions reduction and sustainability best practice.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/apr/09/latest-ipcc-report-offers-key-lessons-for-australiabut-is-anyone-listening>

<sup>4</sup> (1) *Aim High, Go Fast: Why emissions need to plummet this decade*, Climate Council, April 21

(2) *Spot the Difference: as world leaders rose to the occasion at the Biden climate summit, Morrison faltered*, The Conversation, 23 April 21

<sup>5</sup> : CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY BRIEFING: Victoria’s first interim Emissions Reduction Targets;

<https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/media-releases/climateleadership-declaration>

<sup>6</sup> [Victorias-Climate-Change-Strategy-Economic-Analysis.pdf \(climatechange.vic.gov.au\)](#)

- c. Ensure successful implementation of sustainable healthcare initiatives at state, regional, health organisation/network, hospital and practice levels.

## 2. A national strategy that addresses climate and health

With input from over 100 experts across different fields<sup>7</sup>, CAHA have developed a *Healthy, Regenerative and Just* framework for a national strategy on climate, health and wellbeing for Australia.<sup>8</sup> This future is one in which we prioritise planetary health (Healthy) and the protection of ecosystems and earth systems on which our health depends (Regenerative), along with a culture of cooperation for collective benefit (that's 'Just'). It includes recommendations under eight areas of policy action.<sup>9</sup>



## 3. Victorian initiatives and action:

It is worth pausing to acknowledge some of the changes the Andrews government has pledged to already that affect the hospital and healthcare sector. Of particular note is the commitment for electricity used in government operations – including schools, hospitals, metropolitan trains and trams and other public services to be 100 per cent renewable by 2025.<sup>10</sup> There has been installation of solar panels and LED lighting upgrades, moves to integrate zero emission vehicles into government fleets and the Victorian Energy Upgrade program.

<sup>7</sup> [Healthy, Regenerative and Just: Policy Agenda \(caha.org.au\)](https://caha.org.au/healthy-regenerative-and-just-policy-agenda)

<sup>8</sup> [Australians recognise health benefits of climate action, says new poll - Climate and Health Alliance \(caha.org.au\)](https://caha.org.au/news/australians-recognise-health-benefits-of-climate-action-says-new-poll)

<sup>9</sup> [caha-healthy-regenerative-just-policy-FA-ONLINE.pdf \(d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net\)](https://caha.org.au/healthy-regenerative-just-policy-fa-online.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/victorian-government-action-on-climate-change/Whole-of-Victorian-Government-sector-pledge-accessible.pdf>

**Survey Question: What three things do you think will cut Victoria's emissions the most in the period 2031-2035? Boundary: Victorian health sector.**

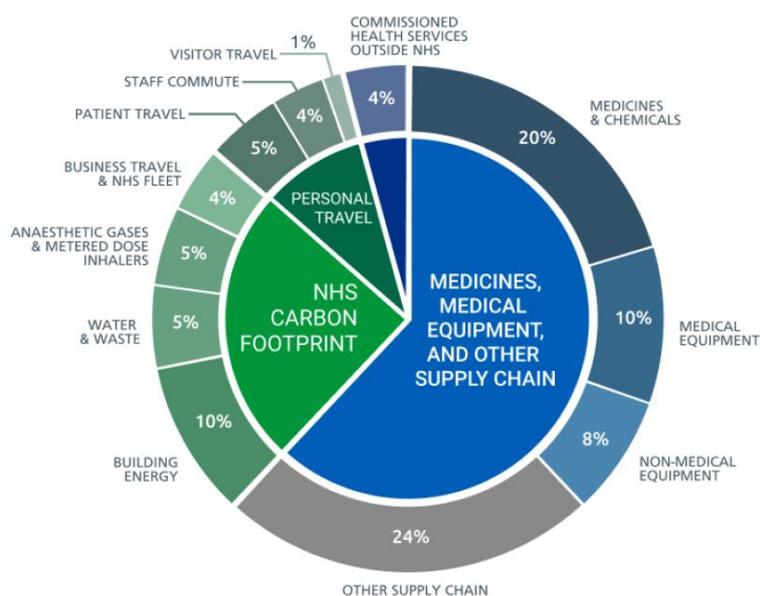
**Action 1:**

*Recognise healthcare as an independent sector with potential to reduce emissions in its own right. In response to this recognition, re-structure and resource the Victorian Healthcare Sustainability Unit, to comprehensively establish Scope 1,2,3 emissions and model a trajectory for zero emissions healthcare by 2040.*

In order to respond to cutting emissions within the healthcare sector, we need to first understand the emissions profile of the sector.

Research published in The Lancet Planetary Health in 2018 reported the carbon footprint attributed to Australia's health care as 7%, with hospitals and pharmaceuticals the major contributors.<sup>11</sup> The NHS has already done substantive research which can guide Victoria's planning. The main difference between Victoria and the NHS is that the NHS is also responsible for primary care, whereas the Victorian public health system is mainly acute healthcare. Even so, the general healthcare services are similar, and the analyses offers learnings, pathways and comparison.

**There is value then in considering the sources of carbon emissions within the NHS. This chart, from Delivering a Net Zero National Health Service,<sup>12</sup> shows that the greatest areas of opportunity for change are in the supply-chain, estates and facilities, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, and travel.**



*Adapt the NHS research to the Victorian setting and use this to develop a trajectory to zero emissions for Victorian healthcare. Action plans derived from the trajectory modelling will identify priority areas,*

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-51961730180-8/fulltext>  
Source: Delivering a Net Zero National Health Service, p.13

<sup>12</sup> p. 13

*as well as what changes need to be made in policy, data capture systems and practice changes to facilitate and capture the emissions reduction.*

Examples of areas identified by the NHS and shared by Victoria include:

- Zero emission vehicles
- Low carbon inhalers
- Preventative medicine
- Digital care pathways
- Sustainable food/nutrition
- Buildings and infrastructure.

We would include in this: capital works guidelines for gas free hospitals, and minimum percentages of recycled content in government builds, including healthcare facilities.

## **Action 2**

*Incorporate Scope 1,2 and 3 into the trajectory modelling.*

60<sup>13</sup>-70<sup>14</sup>% of healthcare's emissions are derived from the health care supply chain (Scope 3), through the production, transport and disposal of goods and services.

*Victoria can incorporate the underlying principles of NHS – Identify those emissions we can directly control and those we can influence. A net zero health system requires a net zero supply chain and there are many opportunities uncaptured in Victorian healthcare currently.*

Resources can be used more efficiently, for example:

1. Capture opportunity to move to re-sterilise, refurbish and reuse rather than single use devices. The provision of renewable energy to public health facilities means the re-sterilisation of various items now offers a reduced emissions profile.<sup>15</sup> Importantly, this has implications for capital works guidelines as there needs to be planning and footprint accommodation for the sterilising services departments within hospitals.
2. There is also opportunity to move away from single use plastic. NHS Trust removed 200,000 single-use plastic items from its waste stream in 2019/20; saving four tonnes of waste per year and over £12,000 a year in packaging, delivery and disposal costs. The Victorian single use-ban is intended to commence in Victoria in February 2023. ANMF (Vic Branch) will be promoting this single use plan as it applies to healthcare at our annual Health and Environmental Sustainability Conference in May 2022.

The government can play a role to ensure that suppliers are decarbonising their own processes

The NHS has released a net zero supplier roadmap<sup>16</sup>. This puts expectations of net zero journeys on suppliers in order to qualify for a NHS contract. There is scope to expand the Government's Social Procurement Framework, particularly with respect to HealthShare

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(20\)30271-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(20)30271-0/fulltext)

<sup>14</sup> [https://noharm-global.org/sites/default/files/documents-files/5961/HealthCaresClimateFootprint\\_092319.pdf](https://noharm-global.org/sites/default/files/documents-files/5961/HealthCaresClimateFootprint_092319.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> [Financial and environmental costs of reusable and single-use anaesthetic equipment | BJA: British Journal of Anaesthesia | Oxford Academic \(oup.com\)](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Greener NHS » Suppliers \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

Victoria's procurement contracts. There needs to be substantial weighting supporting onshore manufacture.

### Action 3:

*All hospitals to have their own, or at least access to, a dedicated Sustainability Officer.*

Isolated hospitals acting separately cannot rapidly lead transition to low carbon care. Coordination is needed across hospital jurisdictions. The action plans will need local implementation and coordination. The role must be positioned with executive reporting. It will implement the action plans and develop health care climate leadership, foster healthcare workforce capacity and capture and report on emissions reduction in healthcare.

The Department of Health manages more than \$23 billion in health assets including 126 hospitals and health services, but ANMF (Vic Branch) identifies only 11 dedicated Sustainability Officers. A dedicated sustainability position is required to realise the economic, environment and social benefits of tackling sustainability and emissions in a coordinated approach. Such a position can support and mobilise staff action as well as working strategically at the governance level in policy, procedure and planning. Environmental sustainability and climate risk need to be incorporated into a performance management system aligning individuals, departments and facility levels with emissions reduction targets and savings.

### Survey Question: What benefits can you see in a low emissions economy for Victoria in 2031-2035?

The Victorian Government has already conducted economic analysis of Victoria's climate change strategy (May 2021)<sup>17</sup> and the necessity of shifting to a low emissions economy. It included conservative estimate the state would incur damage costs of about \$1 trillion by 2100 if no further global action was taken.<sup>18</sup> Other studies confirm that the economic benefits of limiting further climate change significantly outweigh the costs.<sup>19</sup> Delaying action would also be more expensive than acting now – and would put a significant burden on future generations.<sup>20</sup>

Opportunities the Victorian Government has already identified include:

1. Reducing energy bills through improved energy efficiency

<sup>17</sup> [Victorias-Climate-Change-Strategy-Economic-Analysis.pdf \(climatechange.vic.gov.au\)](https://climatechange.vic.gov.au/victorias-climate-change-strategy-economic-analysis.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> Kompas, T., Witte, E. and Keegan, M. 2019, Australia's Clean Energy Future: Costs and Benefits, MSSI Issues Paper 12, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, The University of Melbourne, from [https://sustainable.unimelb.edu.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/3087786/Australias\\_Clean\\_Economy\\_MSSI\\_Issues\\_Paper12.pdf](https://sustainable.unimelb.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0012/3087786/Australias_Clean_Economy_MSSI_Issues_Paper12.pdf) Figures are 2019 dollars, real, discounted

<sup>19</sup> Garnaut, R 2008, The Garnaut Climate Change Review: Final report, Cambridge University Press, retrieved March 11, 2021, from <http://library.bsl.org.au/jspui/bitstream/1/1002/1/Garnaut%20Climate%20Change%20Review%20-%20Final%20Report2008.pdf>; Stern, N. 2007, The Economics of Climate Change: The Stern Review, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, retrieved March 11, 2021, from <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/economics-of-climate-change/A1E0BBF2F0ED8E2E4142A9C878052204>

<sup>20</sup> Howard, P. Sylvan, D. 2021, Gauging Economic Consensus on Climate Change, New York University Institute of Policy Integrity from <https://policyintegrity.org/publications/detail/gauging-economic-consensus-on-climate-change> Comrie, N. 2011, Review of the 2010-11 Flood Warnings and Responses, Victorian Floods Review, from [http://www.floodsreview.vic.gov.au/images/stories/documents/review\\_20101011\\_flood\\_warnings\\_and\\_response.pdf](http://www.floodsreview.vic.gov.au/images/stories/documents/review_20101011_flood_warnings_and_response.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> CIE 2019, Impact of timing of emissions abatement, report prepared for Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, retrieved March 11, 2021, from [https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/421715/Economic-impacts-of-timing-of-emissions-abatement.pdf](https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/421715/Economic-impacts-of-timing-of-emissions-abatement.pdf)

2. Establishing 'industries of the future' such as hydrogen, large-scale batteries and offshore wind generation.
3. Tapping into growing consumer and business preferences for low emissions products such as clean energy and locally- grown food.
4. Helping retain access to international markets as countries impose border taxes related to the carbon intensity of imported product.<sup>21</sup>
5. Creating thousands of jobs<sup>22</sup>
6. Improved health and environment,<sup>23</sup> including reduction in air pollution which could result in health benefits delivering 23 billion in savings by 2050. These savings in money and lives can be realised earlier if Victoria's targets are also brought forward.

Significantly, Australian's are increasingly aware of the impacts of action and inaction.

Australia's Biggest Climate Poll 2022, was conducted by "Together We Can," in January 2022. It surveyed 15,358 people across all 151 federal electorates on their views about climate change<sup>24</sup>.

In summary,

1. 67% of people believe the benefits they receive from greater action on climate change outweigh costs.
2. 69% of people believe greater action on climate change will strengthen the Australian economy
3. 65% of people believe greater action would be good for their health.<sup>25</sup>

#### What can be done to make sure the benefits and costs of climate action are fairly shared?

The term "just transition" needs to be reclaimed for the value it brings, and not politicised and weaponised. Transition is already underway for our domestic power supply. The transition to renewable energy needs to be regulated, just and fair - facilitating economic restructuring that represents the interests of workers and resulting in good, secure, unionised jobs. The dialogue must include livelihoods and communities, women and first nations people.

There is an important role for the State which needs to provide the supportive framework that facilitates this.

The Victorian Trades Hall Council and affiliates have released a report, "*Putting the Justice in Just Transition*". It recommends:

1. Maximise local jobs in renewable energy. Detailed procurement plans must maximise local Victorian and Australian production capacity.
2. Ensure good union jobs.
3. Maximise the number of jobs available with good rosters, hours of work and leave ratios

<sup>21</sup> [Victorias-Climate-Change-Strategy-Economic-Analysis.pdf \(climatechange.vic.gov.au\)](#), p. 7

<sup>22</sup> [Victorias-Climate-Change-Strategy-Economic-Analysis.pdf \(climatechange.vic.gov.au\)](#) p. 8

<sup>23</sup> [Victorias-Climate-Change-Strategy-Economic-Analysis.pdf \(climatechange.vic.gov.au\)](#), p. 14

<sup>24</sup> [Australia's Biggest Climate Poll 2022 - full report.pdf \(nationbuilder.com\)](#); [Australians recognise health benefits of climate action, says new poll - Climate and Health Alliance \(caha.org.au\)](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Climate Poll | Together We Can \(togetherwecanmovement.org.au\)](#)

4. Jobs guarantee and no forced redundancies for workers from fossil fuel industries
5. Detailed skills and training assessment
6. Apprenticeship programs with minimum ratios and include recruitment of women and aboriginal workers
7. Develop the necessary infrastructure to develop the renewables industry.
8. Ensure community engagement and development.<sup>26</sup>

**Survey Question: What challenges might Victoria face in reducing emissions in the period 2031-2035 and potential actions to overcome?**

CHALLENGE	ACTION
Resistance from the fossil fuel industry determined to maximise profits for personal gain. This may take the form of fighting transition plans, failing to spend money on essential safety filters etc prior to closure, portraying their industry as clean or adequately offset, fearmongering among the public about job security and reliable energy supply, politicising climate change as right vs left, misinformation campaigns, use of diversional strategies such as individual personal attribution, offsets, future technologies, CSS.	<p>Stop subsidising fossil fuels.</p> <p>Move away from gas, including gas free hospitals.</p>
Transforming our electricity grid from one centred around coal regions to one centred around wind and solar regions.	<p>A nationally coordinated grid.</p> <p>Prioritise the planning and building of the required transmission lines at pace and scale consistent with keeping global warming to 1.5 degrees and avoiding the worst climate impacts.</p> <p>Planning processes must involve a greater role for regional communities and First Nations Groups. Include impacted communities in the planning to ensure these are minimised. Include biodiversity protection and environment impact mitigation.</p> <p>Use this as an opportunity to locally manufacture the green steel and components for the transmission lines. Maximise regional jobs, invest in training to prepare the workforce.</p>

<sup>26</sup> [2019 just transition offshore wind report FINAL.pdf \(mua.org.au\)](#)

	<p>Pay farmers well along planned routes.</p> <p>This will mean that they can continue to be productive under and around the transmission lines.</p>
Energy demands	<p>Behaviour change education and strategy on aligning behaviour with peak availability of wind and solar.</p> <p>Invest in technology where homes have batteries on site eg: Electric vehicles serving as on-site batteries to support the grid.<sup>27</sup></p> <p>Subsidization and education can encourage increased take up. Government procurement of EV in order to drive eventual availability of them in the second-hand car market.</p> <p>Community microgrids to decrease reliance on the main grid as households pool supply.</p>
Rising energy demand	Support renewable energy hubs
Harder to convert industry	Work with unions who are the expert in their members' needs.
Need innovation	Industry innovation grants
Tension between funding mitigation, adaptation, disaster.	All are important however adaptation is not meaningful if food, water, and land resources become inadequate.
Leave the transition too late and we lose the energy export opportunity that Australia has because some else acts faster to step into the supplier gap.	Don't delay. A Just Transitions Authority as recommended by the ACTU could assist in recognising and capturing these opportunities within the various industry sectors.

**Survey Question: What do you think is most important when setting an emissions reduction target for Victoria for 2035? (Please rank the following)**

4	If the target is a fair contribution to help keep global warming well below 2°C
1	1.5°C
5	How effectively the target drives Victoria's economic growth
6	If the target will give Victoria an economic advantage
3	The environmental benefits in meeting the target
2	The health benefits (including lower health costs) in meeting the target
8	If options are available to meet the target
7	The cost to reach the target

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2022-02-14/electric-vehicle-first-ev-chargers-v2g-v2h-to-arrive-australia/100811130>