

**Australian Nursing & Midwifery  
Federation (Victorian Branch)**

# **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024-29**



**Australian  
Nursing &  
Midwifery  
Federation**  
VICTORIAN BRANCH

# ABOUT THE ANMF (VIC BRANCH)

**The ANMF (Vic Branch) represents more than 100,000 nurses, midwives and personal care workers (the latter predominantly in the private residential aged care sector). Our members are employed in a wide range of enterprises in urban, rural and community care locations and within the public and private health and aged care sectors.**

**The core business for the ANMF (Vic Branch) is the representation of the professional and industrial interests of our members and the professions of nursing and midwifery.**

ANMF (Vic Branch) promotes action on climate change and environmental sustainability.

Human health and wellbeing are intrinsically connected to the quality of the natural environment. Humans are dependent on a stable, habitable climate for food, water, and comfortable living conditions.

Climate change is one of the greatest threats facing humanity. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change **6th Assessment Report** recognises the vulnerability of Australia. Cascading and compounding impacts already place pressure on our ability to respond. Nurses, midwives, and personal care workers are at the forefront of providing care to affected individuals and communities, while often affected themselves. The 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 overloaded health services.

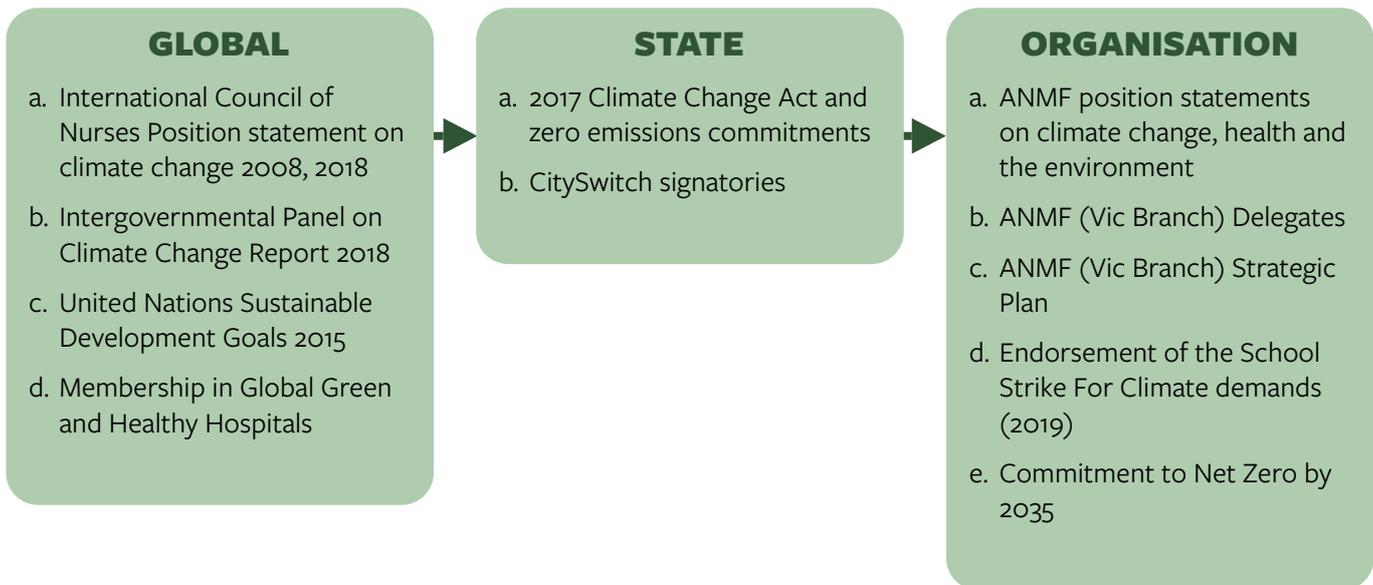
Many nurses, midwives and personal care workers have taken leadership position, advocating for climate resilient health systems, and implementing practice to reduce the environmental impacts of service delivery. These are respected and showcased in the ANMF (Vic Branch) annual **Health and Environmental Sustainability Conference** and our **Green Nurses and Midwives Facebook Page**. The International Council of Nurses (ICN) has called on individual nurses and national nursing associations to respond in professional capacity and in collaboration with government and industry. Delegates have requested that ANMF (Vic Branch) be involved in policy debate on climate change and environmental issues.

ANMF (Vic Branch) has implemented the Lancet Commission call for “a synthesis of top-down and bottom up approaches” for climate action. We advocate in governance settings and have developed **supportive resources** for local implementation. We monitor and target our own organisational footprint.

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<sup>1</sup> Costello, A., Abbas, M., Allen, A., Ball, S., Bell, S., Bellamy, R., ... & Lee, M. (2009). Managing the health effects of climate change. *The Lancet*, 373(9676), 1693-1733. pp49, 50

# IMPETUS FOR ACTION



## ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS

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

The ANMF (Vic Branch) Executive body has endorsed the ambitious target of net zero carbon emissions by 2035. The target includes all Branch properties, activities and emissions across Scopes 1,2,3.

**Scope 1:** Emissions we make eg: running boilers and vehicles.

**Scope 2:** Emissions we buy, eg: buying electricity/gas to heat or cool buildings.

**Scope 3:** Emissions we are indirectly responsible for through our supply chain eg: catering, supplies.

# PRIOR ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

ANMF (Vic Branch) has an active Environmental Committee which has been operating since 2012. In 2018 an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) was developed and implemented. Since then, we have measured our water, energy, waste, and emissions. Dedicated effort has resulted in consistent reductions in all measured parameters over that time.

We have progressed from an initial National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) Energy rating of 2 stars in 2016, to a market leading 6 stars for Energy for Base building and Tenancy in 2023. Our efforts have been independently verified through the rigour of NABERS assessment and CitySwitch awards.



# MEMBER RESOURCES

ANMF (Vic Branch) members work hard in various aspects of patient care and service delivery. Many give their time and energy, over and above immediate workplace demands, to deliver environmental in-service, and develop resources.

ANMF (Vic Branch) has developed a range of materials and tools to support members in climate change mitigation and environmentally sustainable practice.

1. A dedicated **Environmental Health Officer role** to support and resource members in environmentally sustainable workplace action, and to serve in a cConsultant capacity for ANMF (Vic Branch).
2. Annual **Health and Environmental Sustainability Conference** where member initiatives in environmental sustainability are recognised, promoted and perpetuated.
3. **Green Nurses and Midwives Facebook page.**
4. Education – **online** module and face-to-face training in Nursing for the environment INTENSIVE.
5. Practical tools, resources, information hosted on our **Sustainability Campaign Page.**
6. Campaign for the provision of **pharmaceutical waste bins** for members to avoid pharmaceutical waste being discharged to land and water.

# ANMF (VIC BRANCH) ORGANISATIONAL ACTION PLAN

ANMF (Vic Branch) has determined that a comprehensive organisational approach to environmental sustainability is needed. Consequently, Branch Council endorsed Zero emissions target by 2035.

In order to achieve our target, ANMF (Vic Branch) has engaged a carbon accountant commencing 2024. Internal reporting will align with the Commonwealth Climate Active Standard.

Reporting will include ANMF (Vic Branch) property, and Scopes 1, 2 and 3. To support this, a new baseline will be established.

Oversight of the EMP sits with the Environment Committee, reporting to Executive Bodies. This EMP and an emissions reduction strategy will be further developed in 2024 in following comprehensive data analysis, and in consultation with the carbon accountant, Environment Committee and ANMF (Vic Branch) governing bodies.

## ANMF (Vic Branch) roadmap to net zero

A target has been set to achieve net zero by 2035, consistent with the goal of limiting temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and an 80% reduction in emissions by 2030.



**2023-24**

Engage carbon accountant  
Measure our carbon footprint scope 1, 2 and 3

**2024**

Develop an emissions reduction strategy

**2027**

Climate scenario analysis with risk and impact assessment

**2030**

Achieve 80% emissions reduction by 2030

**2035**

Net zero by 2035

# COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

<b>Branch Council</b>	The Assistant Secretary sits on the Environment Committee and reports directly to Branch Council on recommendations and progress reports. The Environmental Health Officer contributes reports and operates in consultant capacity.
<b>Executive</b>	Assistant Secretary sits on the Environment committee which meets monthly and oversees implementation of the EMP. Minutes and Agenda are maintained. The Environmental Health Officer contributes reports and operates in consultant capacity. The Executive receives annual carbon account reports.
<b>All Staff</b>	<p>Environmental Health Officer presents formal reports quarterly with periodical announcements and updates, particularly for special projects.</p> <p>Staff intranet is updated to reflect EMP progress and EC activity. The EMP is available to staff via the staff intranet.</p>
<b>Members</b>	<p>The Environmental Health Officer is an ongoing available resource to members and presents in a wide range of member and professional forums on ANMF (Vic Branch) sustainability progress. Regular news stories and updates are posted through printed and social media, including ANMJ, The Handover, On The Record, e-news, Green Nurses and Midwives Facebook Page.</p> <p>A dedicated sustainability campaign page is maintained. The EMP is available to members via the sustainability campaign page.</p>
<b>Public</b>	<p>Organisation contact details are publicly available.</p> <p>A dedicated sustainability campaign page, which includes copy of the EMP, is maintained and publicly available.</p> <p>The EHO presents regularly in a wide range of public forums on ANMF (Vic Branch) sustainability progress and activity.</p> <p>ANMF (Vic Branch) submits to a range of environmental consultations and government enquiries, which are publicly available.</p>



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