NSW Health's Climate Risk response: The importance of metrics

International Forum on Quality & Safety in Healthcare
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Dr Kate Charlesworth MBBS(Hons), MPH, FAFPHM, PhD
Senior Advisor, Climate Risk & Net Zero Unit, NSW Ministry of Health
Medical Consultant, Planetary Health, NSLHD

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Climate risks

1) Transition risks (requiring mitigation)

2) Physical risks (requiring adaptation)

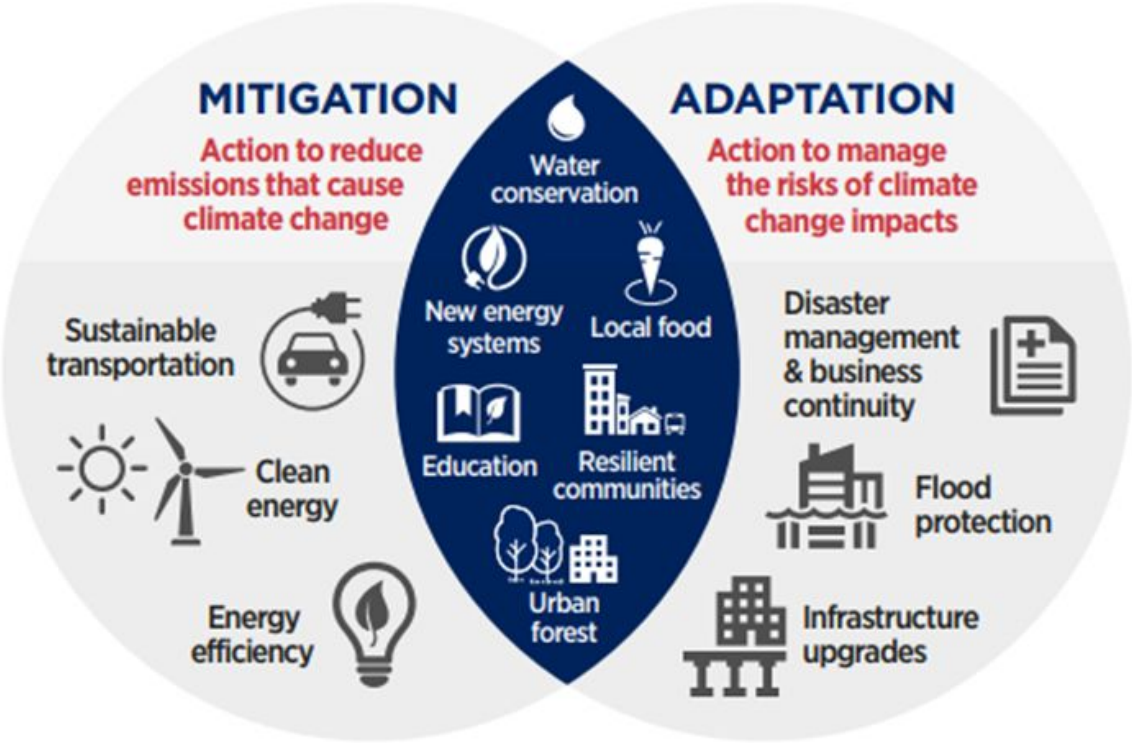


Figure 5: Examples of climate change mitigation and adaptation actions and complementary approaches.

Sustainable Healthcare Module

Find out more about the development of a draft Sustainable Healthcare Module for consultation.

On this page:

National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards

Implementation of the NSQHS Standards

Assessment to the NSQHS Standards

International best practice

Figure 1: Contribution of different sectors to the greenhouse gas emissions of the NHS England

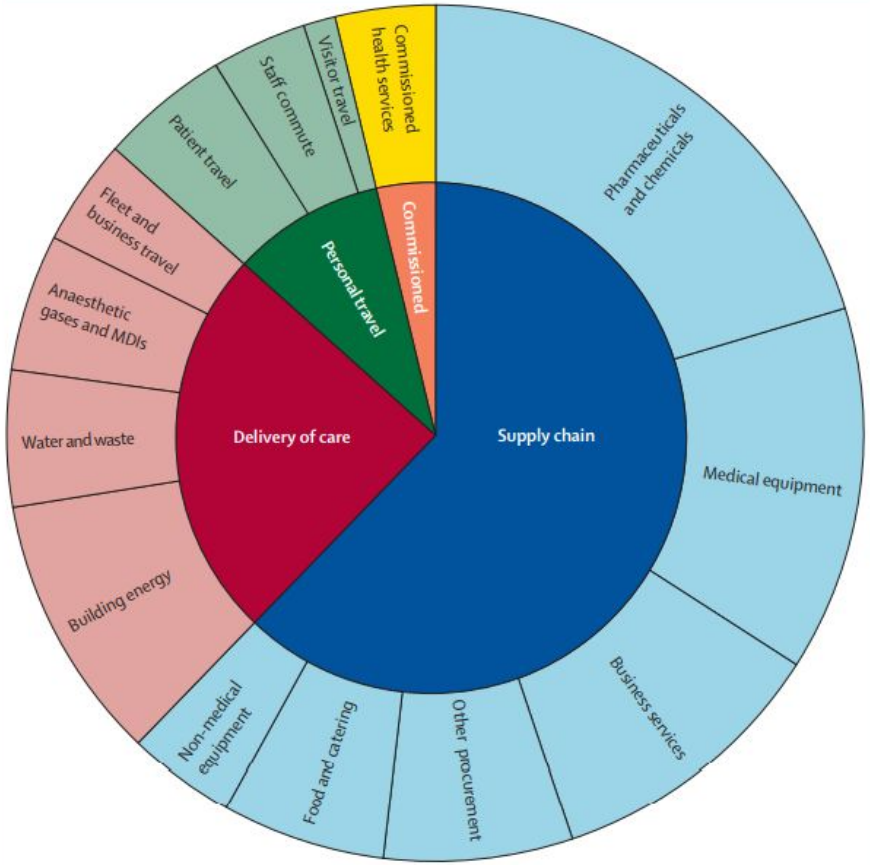
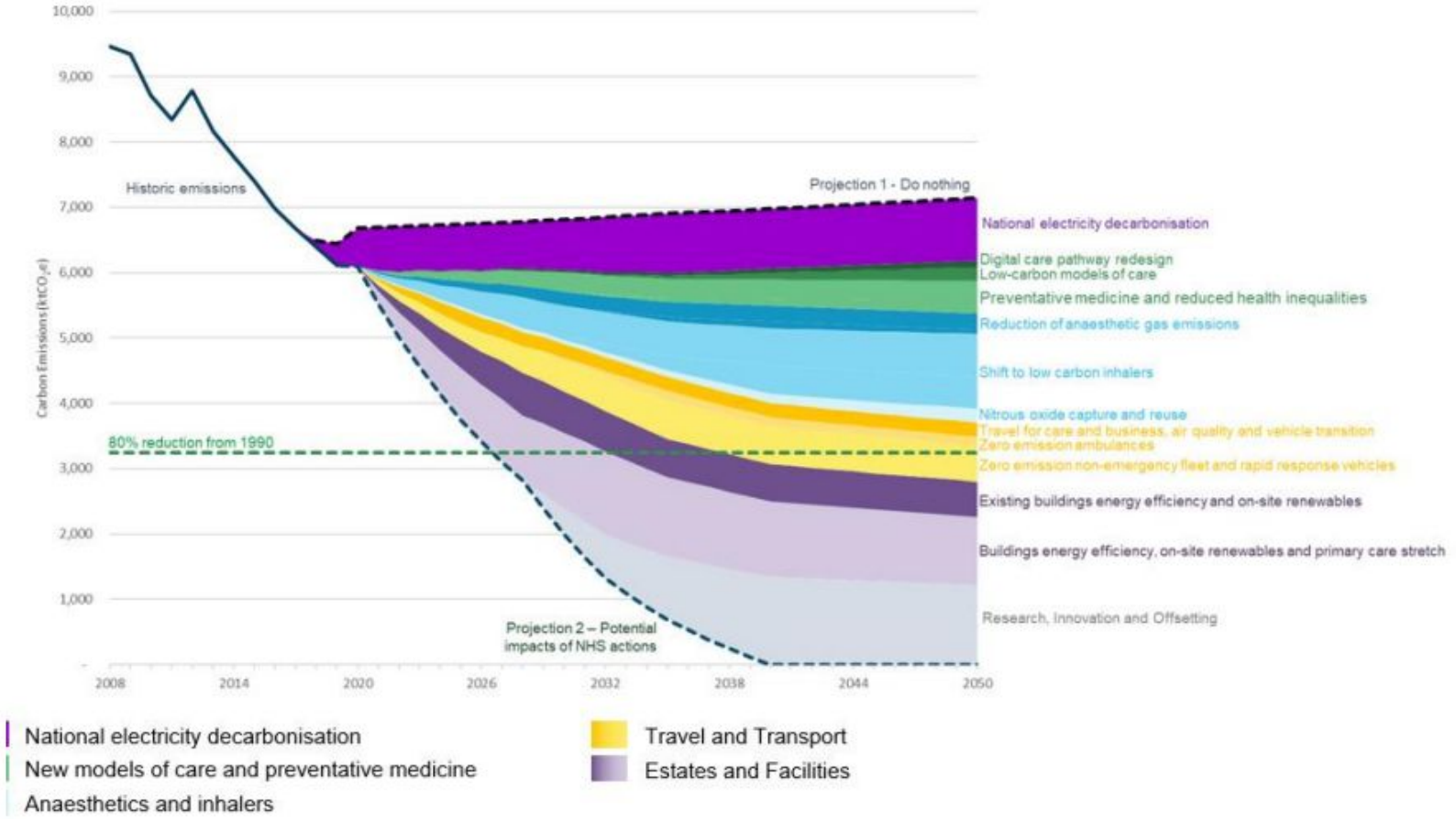


Figure 2: Pathway to net zero for the NHS Carbon Footprint Scope



References:
Tennison, Roschnik, Ashby et al. Health care's response to climate change: a carbon footprint assessment of the NHS in England. The Lancet Planetary Health 2021; 5:e84-92
Delivering a 'Net Zero' National Health Service. NHS England and NHS Improvement. October 2020. delivering-a-net-zero-national-health-service.pdf (england.nhs.uk)

Climate Risk & Net Zero Unit

NSW GOVERNMENT

Future Health: Strategic Framework

Guiding the next decade of care in NSW 2022-2032

Our Vision

A sustainable health system that delivers outcomes that matter most to patients and the community, is personalised, invests in wellness and is digitally enabled.

Our Values:

Collaboration
Openness
Respect
Empowerment

Strategic outcomes	Key objectives
Patients and carers have positive experiences and outcomes that matter: People have more control over their own health, enabling them to make decisions about their care that will achieve the outcomes that matter most to them.	1.1 Partner with patients and communities to make decisions about their own care 1.2 Bring kindness and compassion into the delivery of personalised and culturally safe care 1.3 Drive greater health literacy and access to information 1.4 Partner with consumers in co-design and implementation of models of care
Safe care is delivered across all settings: Safe, high quality reliable care is delivered by us and our partners in a sustainable and personalised way, within our hospitals, in communities, at home and virtually.	2.1 Deliver safe, high quality reliable care for patients in hospital and other settings 2.2 Deliver more services in the home, community and virtual settings 2.3 Connect with partners to deliver integrated care services 2.4 Strengthen equitable outcomes and access for rural, regional and priority populations 2.5 Align infrastructure and service planning around the future care needs
People are healthy and well: Investment is made in keeping people healthy to prevent ill health and tackle health inequality in our communities.	3.1 Prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from pandemic and other threats to population health 3.2 Get the best start in life from conception through to age five 3.3 Make progress towards zero suicides recognising the devastating impact on society 3.4 Support healthy ageing ensuring people can live more years in full health and independently at home 3.5 Close the gap by prioritising care and programs for Aboriginal people 3.6 Support mental health and wellbeing for our whole community 3.7 Partner to address the social determinants of ill health in our communities
Our staff are engaged and well supported: Staff are supported to deliver safe, reliable person-centred care driving the best outcomes and experiences.	4.1 Build positive work environments that bring out the best in everyone 4.2 Strengthen diversity in our workforce and decision-making 4.3 Empower staff to work to their full potential around the future care needs 4.4 Equip our people with the skills and capabilities to be an agile, responsive workforce 4.5 Attract and retain skilled people who put patients first 4.6 Unlock the ingenuity of our staff to build work practices for the future
Research and innovation, and digital advances inform service delivery: Clinical service delivery continues to transform through health and medical research, digital technologies, and data analytics.	5.1 Advance and translate research and innovation with institutions, industry partners and patients 5.2 Ensure health data and information is high quality, integrated, accessible and utilised 5.3 Enable targeted evidence-based healthcare through precision medicine 5.4 Accelerate digital investments in systems, infrastructure, security and intelligence
The health system is managed sustainably: The health system is managed with an outcomes-focused lens to deliver a financially and environmentally sustainable future.	6.1 Drive value based healthcare that prioritises outcomes and collaboration 6.2 Commit to an environmentally sustainable footprint for future healthcare 6.3 Adapt performance measurement and funding models to targeted outcomes 6.4 Align our governance and leaders to support the system and deliver the outcomes of Future Health

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CORE responsibilities

Vision

NSW Health is a leading modern, low carbon, low waste, climate resilient health system by focusing on quality, value, innovation and equity.

1. Collaborate & Coordinate
   - Establish ongoing collaboration with NSW Health organisations, researchers, government agencies and industry
2. Objectives & Performance
   - Set objectives and targets to meet legal, government and regulatory requirements
3. Research & Innovation
   - Partner with researchers, industry, and carbon accountants to measure carbon in the system
4. Empower
   - Engage with staff to understand their values and their views about sustainability, and support them to act in accordance with their values

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Nepean Blue Mountains
Local Health District

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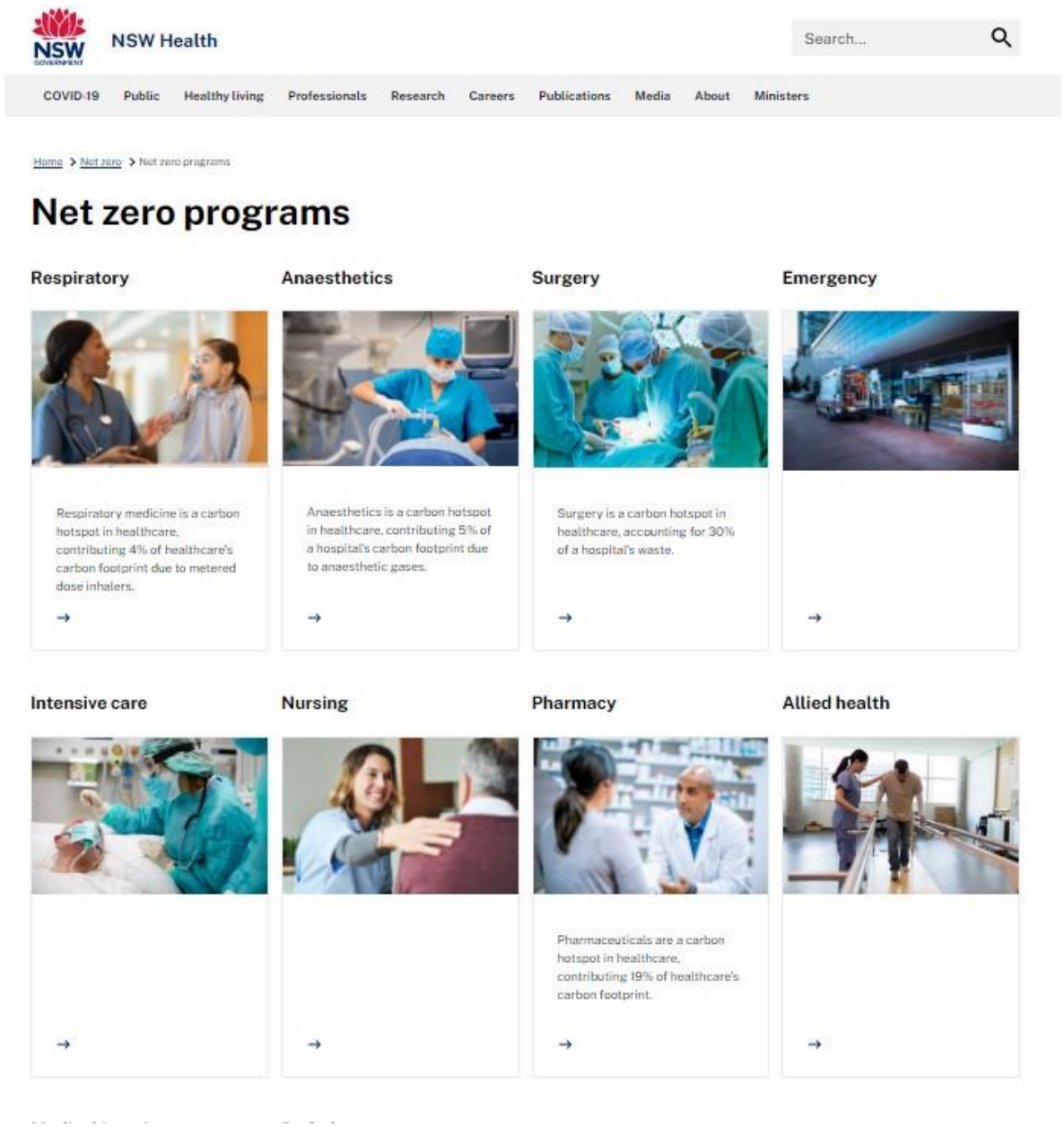
Net Zero Leads Program

- Lead a Network
- Act as change agents
- Redesign low-carbon models of care within their service or specialty, in line with the latest research
- Develop best practice guidance
- Co-author manuscripts for publication



“Carbon will be as important as money.”

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Resource

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Carbon Footprinting for Healthcare

This carbon footprinting course will help health professionals, quality improvement leads and medical students to become carbon literate. You will gain an understanding of what a carbon footprint is, how it can be used in the NHS’s endeavour to go net zero and how it is measured.

- **Workshop: *FULLY BOOKED* 13 July (Wed) 8.00-12.00 BST**
  - Self-study period opens: 22 June
  - Work-in-progress session: 6 December (Tues) 8.00-10.00 GMT

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The carbon footprint of hospital diagnostic imaging in Australia

Scott McAlister,[a]* Forbes McGain,[b] Matilde Petersen,[c] David Story,[d] Kate Charlesworth,[e] Glenn Ison,[f] and Alexandra Barratt[g]

[a]The Centre for Health Policy, The University of Melbourne, Australia, Wiser Healthcare and Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney, Australia, and Department of Critical Care, The University of Melbourne, Grattan St, Parkville, VIC 3010, Australia
[b]Department of Critical Care, The University of Melbourne, Australia and Western Health, Melbourne, Australia
[c]Wiser Healthcare and Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney, Australia
[d]Department of Critical Care, The University of Melbourne, Australia
[e]Northern Sydney Local Health District, Sydney, Australia
[f]Department of Cardiology, St George Hospital, Sydney, Australia
[g]Wiser Healthcare and Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney, Australia

Summary

Background Pathology testing and diagnostic imaging together contribute 9% of healthcare's carbon footprint. Whilst the carbon footprint of pathology testing has been undertaken, to date, the carbon footprint of the four most common imaging modalities is unclear.

Methods We performed a prospective life cycle assessment at two Australian university-affiliated health services of five imaging modalities: chest X-ray (CXR), mobile chest X-ray (MCXR), computerised tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and ultrasound (US). We included scanner electricity use and all consumables and associated waste, including bedding, imaging contrast, and gloves. Analysis was performed using both attributional and consequential life cycle assessment methods. The primary outcome was the greenhouse gas footprint, measured in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) emissions.

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These surgeons have performed the first ‘net-zero’ cancer operation

NSW Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

NSW is already experiencing the impacts of climate change. Most recently these have included the unprecedented cycle of heatwaves, droughts,

Quick links