



5 October 2023

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

The Consumers Health Forum (CHF) is the national peak body representing the interests of Australian healthcare consumers and those with an interest in healthcare consumer affairs. CHF works to achieve safe, quality, timely healthcare for all Australians, supported by accessible health information and systems. At the heart of CHF's policy agenda is consumer-centred care. CHF appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission to the Senate regarding the Climate Change (Duty of Care and intergenerational Climate Equity) Bill but has decided to provide a letter of support in lieu of a submission. CHF is a member of the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) and supports calls for action on sustainability as a necessity to ensure public health.

CHF supports the amendment sponsored by Senator David Pocock. Consumers around Australia care about climate change, and it is becoming increasingly evident that climate change represents the single greatest threat to health facing consumers not just in Australia, but around the world. It is imperative that the Government recognises the responsibility that it has to protect future generations.

CHF strongly supports the inclusion of the following:

"Where significant decisions are likely to directly or indirectly result in substantial greenhouse gas emissions, the decision maker:

1. Must consider the likely impact of the emissions on the health and wellbeing of current and future Australian children and consider their health and wellbeing as the paramount consideration;

and,

2. In the case of decisions involving the exploration or extraction of coal, oil or gas, the decision maker is prevented from making decisions where the resulting greenhouse gas emissions are likely to pose a material risk of harm to the health and wellbeing of current and future Australian children.”

We hope that the Committee will recognise the importance of this bill as an important step towards the protection of Australian futures.

Yours sincerely

Dr Elizabeth Deveny
Chief Executive Officer
Consumers Health Forum of Australia