



Climate and Ecological Justice Resource Pack



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Jesuit Social Services acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and gather, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. First Nations hold the wisdom and law of the original ecological justice on the lands where we live and that sovereignty was never ceded.

In all these transitions and changes that are occurring, the one thing that remains constant is that we are living on Aboriginal land.

This Climate and Ecological Justice Resource Pack was funded by the Victorian Government through the Community Climate Change Adaptation Grants program.



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

Jesuit Social Services: An ecological justice approach

Jesuit Social Services is a social change organisation that provides programs and advocacy in the areas of justice and crime prevention, mental health and wellbeing, education, training and employment, settlement and community building, gender justice, ecological justice, and people and place.

Over the last 10 years we've been on a journey to incorporate ecological justice into our service delivery, advocacy, mission and values. We have also committed to embedding ecological justice into our organisational culture and practices.

We recognise that the community services sector plays a unique role in supporting communities to not only respond to climate emergencies but also adapt to long-term climate impact. As a sector we work with the most marginalised and those most likely to bear the brunt of ecological injustice and climate change impacts.

For Jesuit Social Services, ecological justice is a holistic approach which recognises that social justice must include the environment and care for our common home. Our journey in understanding what ecological justice means for our organisation has meant renewed commitment to restorative practices; healing both social and environmental relationships, building communities of justice and resilience and accompanying communities and participants in the journey towards realising ecological justice on the ground.

Centre for Just Places

Jesuit Social Services established the Centre for Just Places, with significant seed funding from Gandel Philanthropy and the Victorian Government, to support and enable place-based approaches to social and ecological justice through research, collaboration, engagement and knowledge exchange.

Enabling climate just and resilient communities is one of the Centre's focus areas. We work at the intersections of social inequity and climate change, collaborating with community members, community sector organisations, and local governments to increase local capacity, co-design actions, and build community resilience.

Turn to the back page of this pack to learn more about the Centre's work and services.

Climate & Ecological Justice Resource Pack

This Resource Pack has been designed with support from Climate Change Exchange RMIT and VCOSS. It provides a detailed, but limited overview of climate and ecological justice resources. We recognise that there are many more organisations doing transformative work across Australia, and valuable examples of climate adaptation support tools that can be applicable for CSOs. Throughout the pack there are live links that direct you to websites and downloadable pdfs for you to explore. This is an evolving document, that will continue to be developed and expanded.

Resilient responses to climate change

“Not all impacts of climate change will be able to be avoided. For this reason both (responses are) required... adaptation to deal with the effects of climate change already in train and mitigation to diminish future emissions and greater climate change impacts.” *Enliven*



The community services sector plays a unique role in supporting community adaptation to climate impacts; to not only respond to emergencies but also to adapt and cope with the long-term impacts by building individual and systemic resilience.

Building long-term community resilience requires a systemic and place-based approach that encompasses both personal preparedness to stress events as well as enabling the societal conditions for a supportive and collaborative context so that communities can thrive.

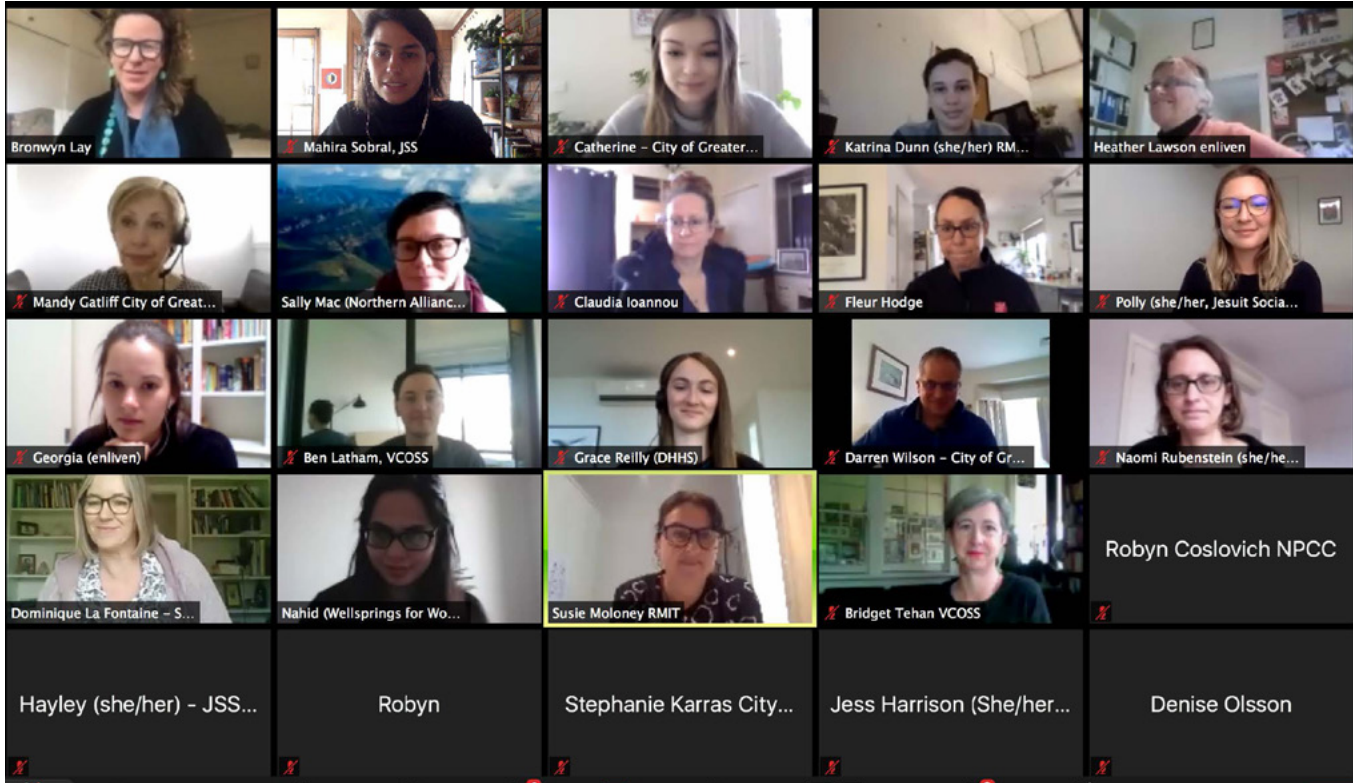
Community resilience requires long-term reflection and meaningful implementation of the pre conditions that allow resilience to grow and be maintained within communities and the ecosystems they rely upon, so that they both thrive and equitably adapt when stressors or emergency events occur.

Implications for cultivating and maintaining community resilience is much broader than the community services sector alone. It intersects with energy and housing, biodiversity protection, urban planning laws, federal and state governments policies and our social and economic structures.

According to the most recent Climate of a Nation report, 71% of Australians want Australia to be a global leader in finding solutions to climate change. The community services sector has a responsibility to respond to the challenges of climate change in an equitable manner, as the people we serve are the most impacted when we don't address climate change.

Community climate change adaptation (3CA) grant

To share our experience and challenges in this space we partnered with the Climate Change Exchange, RMIT and the Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS) on a project to build adaptive capacity and climate and environmental literacy within the community services sector.



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Through a grant funded by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), we conducted a series of interviews to help identify where Community Service Organisation (CSO) staff felt they needed support in relation to climate change adaptation.

This **Climate and Ecological Justice Resource Pack** is the result of that work and contains meaningful and practical resources on embedding sustainability and climate change adaptation into organisational cultures and service delivery.

Due to the unique role of Community Service Organisations in cultivating long-term community resilience, it became apparent that there was a need to build the sector's understanding of addressing the joint concerns of social and ecological justice inherent in possible climate change responses.

Throughout our workshops and resource pack we've focused on addressing and preparing for extreme heat, as "extreme heat is responsible for more deaths than any other natural hazard in Australia" (Bureau of Meteorology 2005) leading it to be labelled the 'silent killer' and a 'slow motion disaster'. Extreme heat is only predicted to rise and become more frequent.

Climate change concepts and response frameworks

Establishing a shared understanding and vocabulary is important for collective advocacy, action and community adaptation. In this section you'll find useful definitions and explanations that might be helpful in communicating issues of ecological justice with your organisations' leadership, colleagues and community members.



CLIMATE CHANGE:

A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2014

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION:

A human intervention to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as clean energy, waste management, efficient transportation.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION:

Actions taken in response to actual or projected climate change and impacts, that lead to a reduction in risks or a realisation of benefits.

MALADAPTATION:

Actions that may lead to increased risk of adverse climate related outcomes, increased vulnerability to climate change, or diminished welfare, now or in the future.

RISK:

The chance of something happening that will have an impact on an objective, system, sector, asset, activity or community. A risk is often discussed in terms of the event (for example, a weather event or climatic change), the consequence of the event (positive or negative), and the likelihood it will happen.

VULNERABILITY:

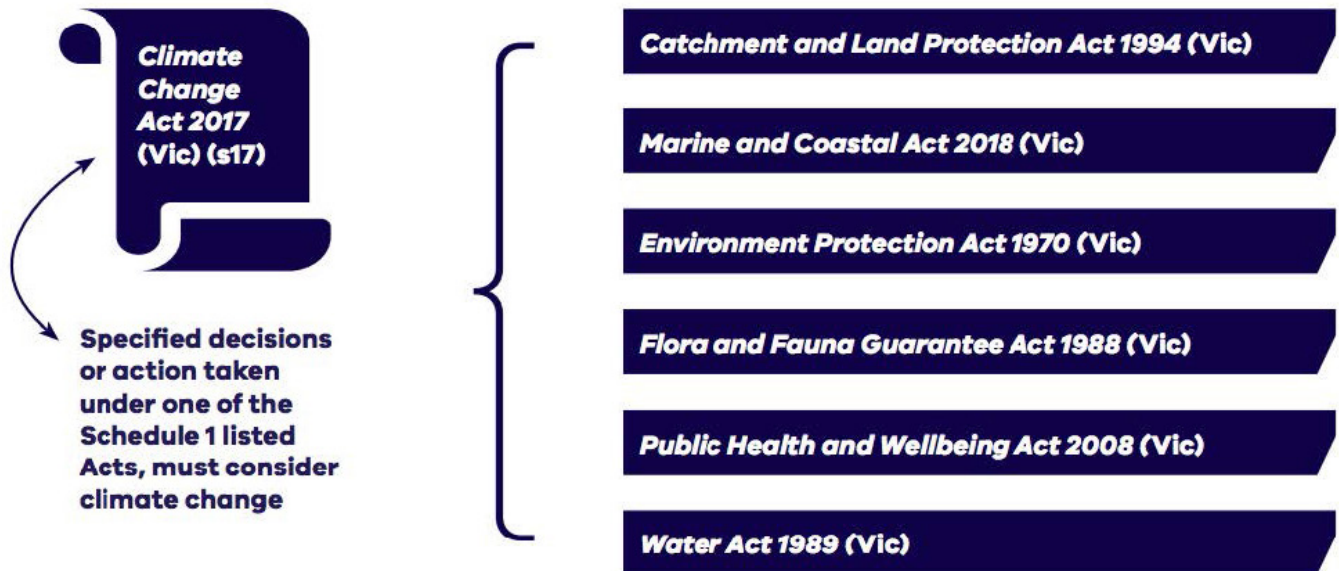
The degree to which a system, sector or social group is susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change; vulnerability depends on the nature of the climate changes to which the system is exposed, its sensitivity to those changes and its adaptive capacity.

ADAPTIVE CAPACITY:

The capability of a system, sector or social group to adjust to climate change, to minimise harm, to act on opportunities, or to cope with the consequences.

Government responses to climate change

STATE GOVERNMENT



Climate Change Act 2017

Victoria is one of two states that passed the Climate Change Act in 2017 that demonstrates its commitment to drive Victoria's transition to net zero emissions, and build a climate resilient community and economy by 2050.

Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023

This key piece of legislation recognises that climate change is a leading threat to health and wellbeing, and tackling climate change and its impact on health is included as one of four key focus areas in the plan.

It reinforces that local and state government must have regard to climate change when undertaking public health and wellbeing planning.

Climate Change Framework

Victoria's Climate Change Framework makes the connections between climate change and the health of our economy and our communities. It outlines the government's approaches and plan to reduce emissions through renewable energy.

Victoria's Climate Change Strategy (2021)

A blueprint for action that will help our State meet the challenges and act on the opportunities of climate change.

[Victoria's Climate Change Strategy \(2021\)](#)

This strategy is informed by seven sector adaptation plans which are being developed in parallel to six regional adaptation strategies. The sector plans will be state-wide while the regional plans are place based. Examples of the plans that are in development include the draft [Health and Human Services Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan \(2022-2026\)](#) and the [Preparing a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Greater Melbourne](#) discussion paper (2020). These regions include Barwon South West, Gippsland, Grampians, Human, Loddon Mallee and Port Phillip (Greater Melbourne).

Victorian Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategies

The Climate Change Act 2017 requires climate change adaptation action plans to be developed for seven different systems, including the Health and Human Services system, Victoria's six DELWP Forest and Fire Regions are all preparing regional adaptation strategies

Government responses to climate change

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There are 1,700 local governments worldwide and 96 around Australia that have declared a 'Climate and Ecological Emergency' committing us to emergency action on climate change. Victorian councils include:



Ballarat
Banyule
Bass Coast Shire
Bayside City
Brimbank City
Cardinia Shire
Darebin City
Frankston City

Maribyrnong City
Melbourne City
Mildura Rural City
Moonee Valley City
Mount Alexander Shire
Land City Council
Mornington Peninsula
Shire

Moyne Shire
Glen Eira City
Greater Dandenong
Greater Geelong
Greater Shepparton
Hepburn Shire
Hobson's Bay Indigo Shire
Kingston City

Manningham City
Port Phillip
Queenscliffe Borough
Stonnington
Surf Coast Shire
Warrnambool
Yarra
Yarra Ranges

If your council has taken part, reach out to their Environment team to discuss ways to bring community voices into local climate solutions.

More info: climateemergencydeclaration.org/climate-emergency-declarations-cover-15-million-citizens/

Is your council not on the list?

Here are some campaigns to get your council to declare a climate emergency and work alongside community organisations and members to develop actions that are sustainable and equitable:

- [Why declare a climate emergency?](#) (Climate Emergency Declaration And Mobilisation In Action (CEDAMIA))
- [Why councils?](#) (Council and Community Action in the Climate Emergency (CACE))
- [Existing campaigns \(Australia\)](#) - Is there a campaign in your area that you can support?

- [Build a climate emergency campaign](#) with CACE
- [Toolbox for your campaign](#) (Climate Emergency Declaration)
- [More things to do](#) (Climate Emergency Declaration)
- [Beyond symbolism: Action after declaration](#) (CEDAMIA) and [post declaration ideas](#) (CACE)

How do we talk about climate change?

“The science behind climate change has been proven correct to the highest degree of certainty the scientific method allows. But climate change is more than just the science.

It’s a social phenomenon.



And the social dimensions of climate change can make the science look simple – the laws of physics are orderly and neat but, people are messy. It depends on how they see the world, their politics, values, cultural identity, their psyche and innermost self”

Rebecca Huntley, How to talk about Climate Change, (2020)

How we talk about ‘climate change’ and why the words we choose matter:

[Don't Mention the Emergency?](#)

(Climate Emergency Declaration)

The language we use when we talk about ‘climate change’ is important

[“It's a crisis, not a change”](#)

(The Guardian)

[Communicating Climate Change: Effective Public Engagement for Social Change](#) (Susanne Moser)

[Why calling for a “climate emergency” is not climate justice.](#)

Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC)

Similar to a public health campaign, much work has gone into developing messaging frameworks that proportionally reflect the urgency of the situation while also providing clear pathways for action.

However, it is important to recognise the valid criticisms and limitations of the ‘climate emergency’ language, which can sometimes enable support for immediate, “false solutions like nuclear, untested geo-engineering, handing over power to private corporations to fix the problem for profit. Under this scenario - the ends justify the means and all the existing power structures and injustices are reinforced (AYCC)”.

Research and evidence: impacts on the sector

Over the years there has been an extensive body of research exploring the adaptive capacity of Australia's health and social services sector, recognising their importance on the front lines of dealing with the climate crisis.

In this section you'll find some of that research, as well as evidence illustrating that climate change has complexity and compounding impacts which exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and social issues that CSOs are already addressing.

43% of community services were impacted by extreme weather or disaster in the past 12 months, these impacts included:*



50%
staff transport



36%
staff absent from work



46%
client's access to services affected



42%
demand for services increased

*2019 survey distributed through Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOS) to 138 people within Victorian community service organisations (CSOs) about their views, expectations and strategies related to climate change.

Even with a high majority of **61%** identifying that they believed climate change will reduce their clients' resilience to extreme weather and disasters, **67%** had not yet:

- Developed a risk assessment plan
- Implemented a climate change plan
- Engaged in any advocacy on climate change issues.

Impact on services

During periods of extreme weather, demand and costs associated with service delivery increases and stress on services is exacerbated.

There are OH&S considerations for staff working in different conditions, as well as preparing staff to deal with extreme heat.

Staff absentees can increase due to needing to care for other family members, or disruption to transportation, which may lead to the organisation cancelling appointments, activities or home visits. Extreme heat can also impact staff productivity and ability to focus at work.

Communicating with clients

CALD communities are at higher risk due to communication or information barriers. Organisations face challenges when communicating with recent migrants and providing information on preparing for or during an extreme weather event.

Impacts on clients' wellbeing

According to DHHS "people living alone in a private residence were 1.5 times more likely to present to a hospital emergency department with a heat related condition". CSOs do see an increase risk of loneliness and trauma during and after periods of extreme heat or bushfires.

As well as an increase in behavioural problems and family violence, due to heat stress and limited outdoor activities. Extreme heat also increases risk of heatstroke and dehydration in elderly, people experiencing homelessness or who use drugs. DHHS reports "people over 65 were four times more likely to present to a hospital emergency department" during a period of extreme heat".

Energy poverty

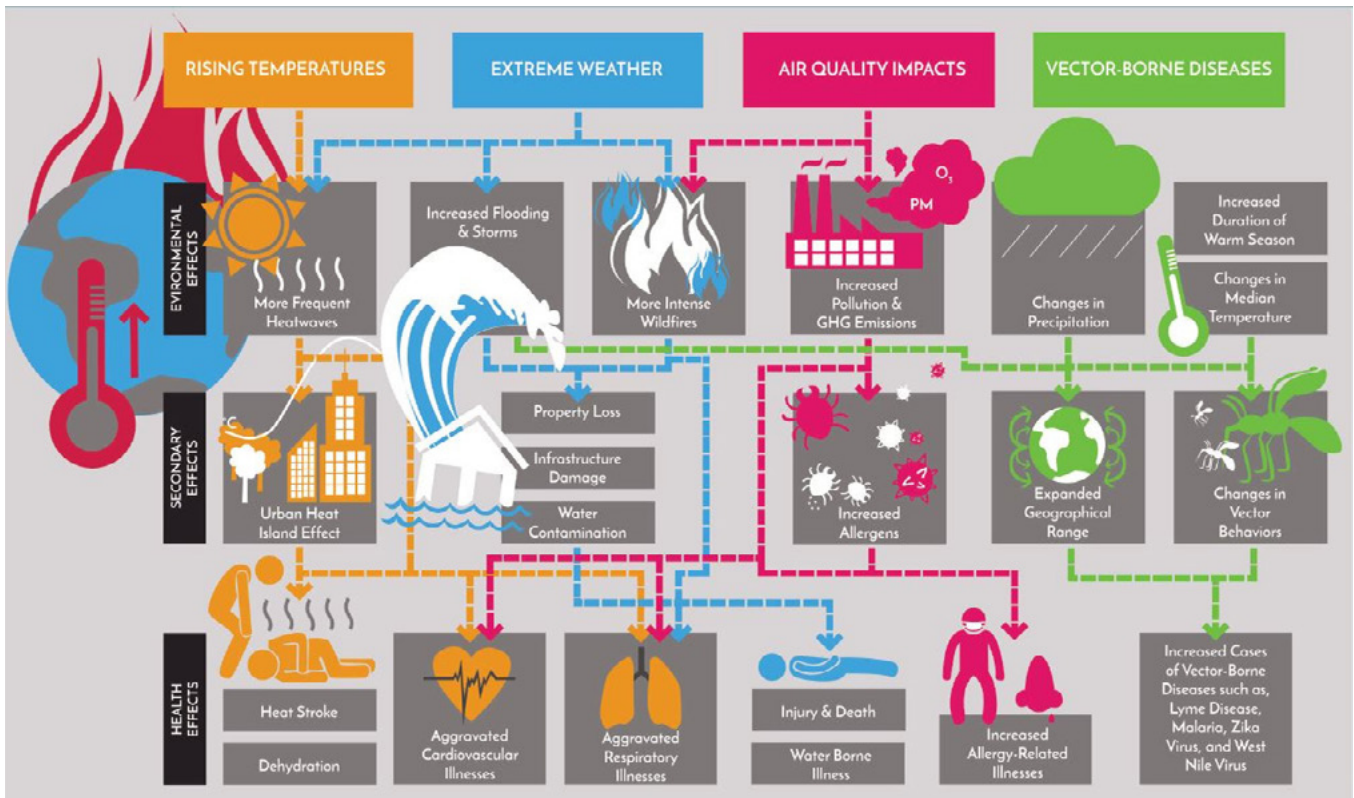
Unable to use air conditioning at home due to high costs of energy bills, increases risk of heat stress and encourages seeking refuge from heat in public spaces, such as libraries, community centres or shopping malls.

Research and evidence: compounding climate change impacts

Climate change impacts “brings about multi-stress vulnerability, affecting people’s health and well-being, financial situation, mobility, social relations and access to basic services”. *Miller and Bolitho, 2014*

As you can see in two infographics in this section, climate change has compounding and complex impacts that exacerbate existing vulnerabilities

and disrupt the health of our social structures and environmental systems.



As seen in the example of the Black Summer of 2019/2020 extreme heat and weather impacts upon the frequency and intensity of bushfires. In varying degrees we all witnessed, and many are still experiencing, the cascading impacts from the initial fire event.

These included exacerbating employment possibilities, health impacts, culture dislocation, social isolation, insurance insecurity, forced relocation, biodiversity loss, water and energy access, property and food insecurity, infrastructure fragility, family violence and mental health.

Extreme heat, like other climate change impacts, is a vulnerability multiplier for human communities and the natural and built environment. Therefore it is imperative that when we develop adaptation responses and capacity of a community, we cannot only address the direct impacts of climate change, we must also address the existing vulnerabilities in order to build systemic and institutional capacity for longer-term resilience.

Climate change is a justice issue

Vulnerability is not something inherited, it is created by cultural, economic and political systems: our social decisions.

Climate stressors and health crises reveal pre-existing inequalities and injustices that shape our communities.

Therefore we need systemic resilience and transformative responses to adaptation, in order to prevent maladaptation compounding existing marginalisation and creating new vulnerabilities and injustices. Such as, “increasing social and economic disadvantage from rising prices of utilities during extreme weather events. Social dislocation and hardship following from disaster and inequitable access to adaptation resources such as home insulation and access to public transport or cool spaces” (Enliven)

Community Sector Organisations (CSO) are at the front line of responding to these compounding impacts so it is important to understand the multiple and complex factors that cause vulnerability in order to appropriately and equitably adapt.

Equitable adaptation is central to the role of CSOs because of the populations we work with and the opportunities we have for building long term community resilience.



Which groups in the community are most at risk to climate change impacts?

Which groups are most at risk in the community?

People of a certain age or life stage

- Over 65yearsold, especially those living alone
- Pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers
- Babies and young children

People with disabilities and particular health conditions such as:

- Heart and lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer or kidney disease, lymphoedema, fibromyalgia, poliomyelitis
- Certain neurological illnesses (e.g. Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease)
- Mental illness
- Illness or infection that causes dehydration or fever
- Conditions that impair sweating including dehydration, skin disorders (sunburn, prickly heat, burn scarring), congenital impairment of sweating, cystic fibrosis, quadriplegia, scleroderma
- Addiction to alcohol, cigarettes and other drugs
- Cognitive impairments
- Limited mobility
- Obesity
- Low cardiovascular fitness

People taking medications that may affect the way the body reacts to heat

- Allergy medicines (antihistamines)
- Some blood pressure and heart medicines (beta-blockers and vasoconstrictors)
- Seizure medicines (anticonvulsants)
- Thyroid medications (thyroxine)
- Water pills (diuretics)
- Antidepressants
- Antipsychotics

People in inequitable social and economic circumstances

- People who are homeless, especially those sleeping rough
- People living in rooming houses, transitional accommodation, cars, caravans, tents, or insecure housing
- People living in public or private social housing
- People with low socioeconomic status who have restricted means of coping with extreme weather
- People who are living alone and/or who are socially isolated
- People with low proficiency of literacy in English (and/or other languages)
- New arrivals and visitors unfamiliar with our climate and/or associated social practices to manage extreme weather
- People exposed to prejudice, discrimination and other systemic barriers such as racism, sexism, ageism and ableism
- People exposed to greater risk of violence such as women and children, drug and alcohol users, people in insecure accommodation or sleeping rough

People outdoors during extreme heat

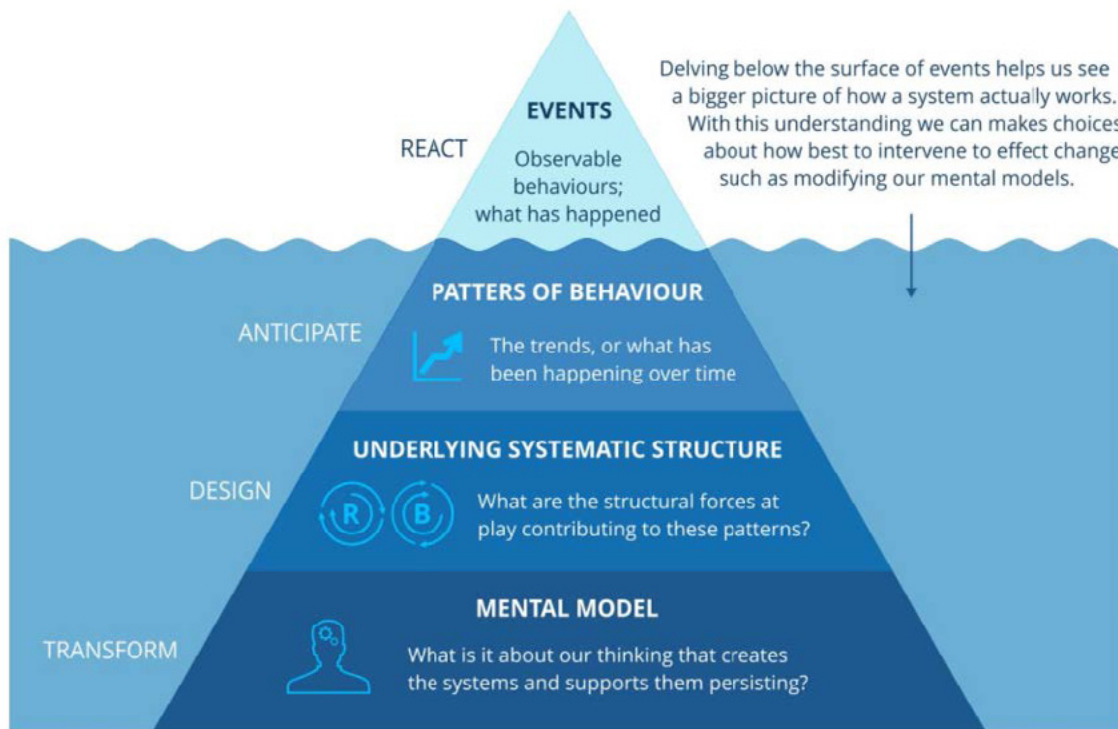
- Working or being physically active outdoors (e.g. gardeners, athletes and labourers).

This list, from the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) [Exploring Vulnerabilities Desktop Review \(2021\)](#), is based on groups listed in the [Victorian Heat Health Plan \(2020\)](#) with the addition of further groups identified through interviews and surveys by NAGA.

Transformative approaches

"We turn from adapting to climate change, towards adapting with climate change. Adapting with sees climate change as internal (a product of humanity's values, decisions and actions), but also is coevolution with the environment, so that neither environmental or social change is independent (*Castree and Braun 2001*)"

[Adaptation to Climate Change: From resilience to transformation](#), Mark Pelling, 2011



Tim Paul's illustration of Iceberg of Systems Thinking

Climate change adaptation can be technical and social actions. However, taking a transformative approach means your actions address the root drivers and fundamental attributes of a system that create vulnerabilities and marginalisation.

"Transformation entails being aware of and challenging inherited ways of thinking, assumptions and biases, as well as recognising and negotiating power structures. This involves developing alternatives to entrenched and institutionalised positions, reflecting critically on one's own patterns of behaviour and addressing moral trade-offs in change processes."

The role and responsibility of CSOs is to anticipate impacts, prepare and at the same time contribute to building community resilience by addressing the root drivers of vulnerability and marginalisation. A transformative approach requires engagement and collaborative support between organisations, communities and different sectors, to enable systemic change.

Tools for advocacy

CSOs have a defined role within our society; much of the responsibility and capacity to make pivotal decisions that influence climate and environmental policy and outcomes are outside our domain.

However, the decisions of those influencing these policies and responses have a direct impact on the communities we work with, perhaps for many generations.

Those in the community services sector not only have a role, but are also the best placed to amplify the voices of those who will be most impacted by climate change impacts.

In this section we provide tools and resources to advocate decision makers at multiple levels of governance and industry towards implementing climate solutions that address the root drivers of marginalisation and vulnerabilities.

We also share some of the many organisations, coalitions and networks that can assist and support community organisations with access to information, guidance, collaborative learnings and data, as well as have capacity to influence decision makers.

Connect with others in the sector and stay in the loop:

Join the [Better Futures](#) campaign and sign the declaration led by Climate Action Network Australia (CANA), Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) and the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS).

Health organisations can follow and join CAHA [the [Climate and Health Alliance](#)], a coalition of health care stakeholders addressing climate change.

Councils can join [Victorian Greenhouse Alliances](#) to connect with other local governments driving action.

[School Strike 4 Climate](#)

Tell your story:

Connect with the [Climate Media Centre](#) to organise climate communication trainings for your organisation.

Build your advocacy and organising skills:

[The ChangeMakers Organising School](#) offers a series of free, ongoing training sessions and podcast episodes to build your skills in organising and advocacy to create change.

Resources for evidence and advocacy:

[Climate Council](#) and [Climate for Change](#)



Tools for advocacy

Influencing government:

- Doing a pre-budget submission (Nov/Dec) outlining priority areas you see for Victorian Government spending
- Joint statements with other CSOs on key issues
- Arranging meetings with key Ministers and local MPs to talk about what's important for your community

Government websites for submissions to particular inquiries:

[Vic Government Legislative Assembly Committee](#)
[Legislative Council Committee](#)
[Bills in parliament](#)
[Victorian Consultations](#)
[Royal Commissions](#)
[Federal Inquiries](#) and [Royal Commissions](#)

Consider subscribing to [Engage Victoria](#), a hub for Victorian government consultations. You can choose the areas you are interested in and then automatically get updates about inquiries as they come through.

'How to write a policy submission' cheat sheet by Jesuit Social Service's policy and advocacy team:

Be clear about what you want to achieve, your key messages and recommendations, and who you want to influence through your advocacy – this will affect the strategy you adopt:

- Government: through submissions
- General Public: through social media, campaigns
- Key partners or potential partners: through stakeholder engagement networks
- Media: media releases

Tips for submissions:

- A submission can be in the form of a letter, a short document or a substantial paper covering a range of issues.
- Read and address the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry/Royal Commission
- Devise a clear list of key messages and key recommendations that you want to convey in your submission
- To support these key messages and recommendations, it will bolster your submission if you have data/evidence (your own or other organisations) and also case studies examples from your work.
- When writing submissions you should make it clear who the submission is from, briefly introduce your organisation, and identify a contact person.
- Keep a note of the closing date as sometimes the deadlines can be quite tight! Consider leaving time for consultation and sign-off within an organisation.

Examples of Jesuit Social Services 2020 government submissions:

- [Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria](#)
- [Inquiry into Environmental Infrastructure in Victoria](#)
- [Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements](#)



Tools for work or your organisation

"Many factors influence adaptive capacity including: institutions, social structures, power dynamics, access to resources, social and financial capital, knowledge and information...Different individuals and communities will have different adaptive capacities based on their context. It is important to evaluate the factors that contribute to adaptive capacities in particular contexts... in order to avoid maladaptive outcomes." (*weADAPT*)

We know that CSOs are highly vulnerable to climate impacts on operations, yet highly unprepared to anticipate these impacts. However, they are at the forefront of responding to the immediate and long-term climate impacts on those who are already experiencing structural vulnerabilities.

Our organisations' own vulnerability to climate risks, also exacerbates the existing vulnerabilities of the communities we serve, which is why focusing on transformative adaptation and preparedness is vital to building a resilient system and community.

This section presents possible steps that may guide your organisations' adaptation planning:

- The case for climate action and how we engage our organisations
- Assessing where we are starting from identifying climate-related impacts and risks on our organisation
- Planning and preparing for these impacts and risks
- Contingency planning
- Embedding an 'adaptive culture' into our organisations and our communities.



"If well adapted, CSOs have the willingness, specialist skills, assets and capacity to make a major contribution to the resilience and adaptive capacity of their clients and the community more broadly."

Australian Council of Social Services

Tools for work or your organisation

Where to begin:

[Adaptive Capacity Reflection](#)

A short survey designed by Jesuit Social Services and Climate Change Exchange RMIT, as a tool for organisations to reflect and assess their adaptive capacity, their emphasis on climate change and staff wellbeing. Can be used as a conversation starter within an organisation.

[Do you know how resilient your organisation is to disasters and emergencies?](#) (ACOSS)

Benchmarking tool - complete the self-assessment to receive a resilience score and information to help you identify how to strengthen your organisation.

What the health impacts of climate change look like:

[Understanding Climate, Weather and Public Health](#) (VicGov)

Evidence-based information regarding climate change's impact on airborne dust, bushfires, extreme cold, extreme heat and heatwaves, floods, epidemic thunderstorm asthma

[Health Impacts of Climate Change](#) (Sustainability Victoria)

How to discuss climate change at executive/ senior leadership/ board level:

[Why community organisations need to build their disaster resilience](#) (ACOSS)

[The business case for climate adaptation](#) (Coast Adapt)

Provides a template on how to build a business case for climate adaptation "Effective business plans for climate adaptation are essential to ensure organisational support, access to required resources, and ultimately for achieving action."

[Getting buy-in and support in your organisation](#)

Building an 'adaptive' culture (remember the 'how'):

[Beyond tools: building learning organisations to adapt to a changing climate](#)

"Creating an effective learning culture for adaptation involves actively seeking new ideas and other ways of working, welcoming dissonant information that does not fit with current practice and thinking, retaining institutional learning and knowledge, and the creation of, and support for, 'informal spaces' to experiment and innovate through processes of dialogue that enhance collaboration rather than debate and argument.

Learning organisations work to engage the hearts and minds of employees in the process of productive change that is designed to achieve results they and their stakeholders genuinely care about."



Tools for work or your organisation

Planning for resilience and emergency preparedness:

[Resilient Community Organisations](#) (ACOSS)

Includes 'Disaster Resilience Plan' and 'Risk Register' templates

[Preparing for emergencies reference guide](#) (DHHS)

A reference guide for organisations in the health and community services sector, from planning through to post-emergency. Includes risk-assessment template and hazardspecific resources.

[Handbook Collection](#) (Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience)

Includes helpful handbooks on 'Communities Responding to Disasters: Planning for Spontaneous Volunteers', 'Community Engagement for Disaster Resilience' and 'Community Recovery'

[Climate resilience programme](#) (Emergency Management Victoria)

A supportive program which connects CSOs with facilitators to developed tailored resilience plans focused on improving organisations' climate impact preparation and ensuring operational continuity in times that community's need it the most.

[Heat Health Plan for Victoria](#) (DHHS)

How to develop risk management and contingency plans:

[Climate change impact and risk management:](#)

[A guide](#) (AusGov)

A guide to integrating climate change impacts into risk management and other strategic planning activities to assist Australian businesses and organisations to adapt to climate change.

[Climate change adaptation toolkit](#) (City of Greater Geelong)

Three-step tool created to facilitate robust decision-making processes and integrate climate change adaptation across organisations.

[Guidance for service continuity of community care in extreme heat conditions](#) (VicGov)

Outlines general principles of service continuity during extreme heat for community care service providers

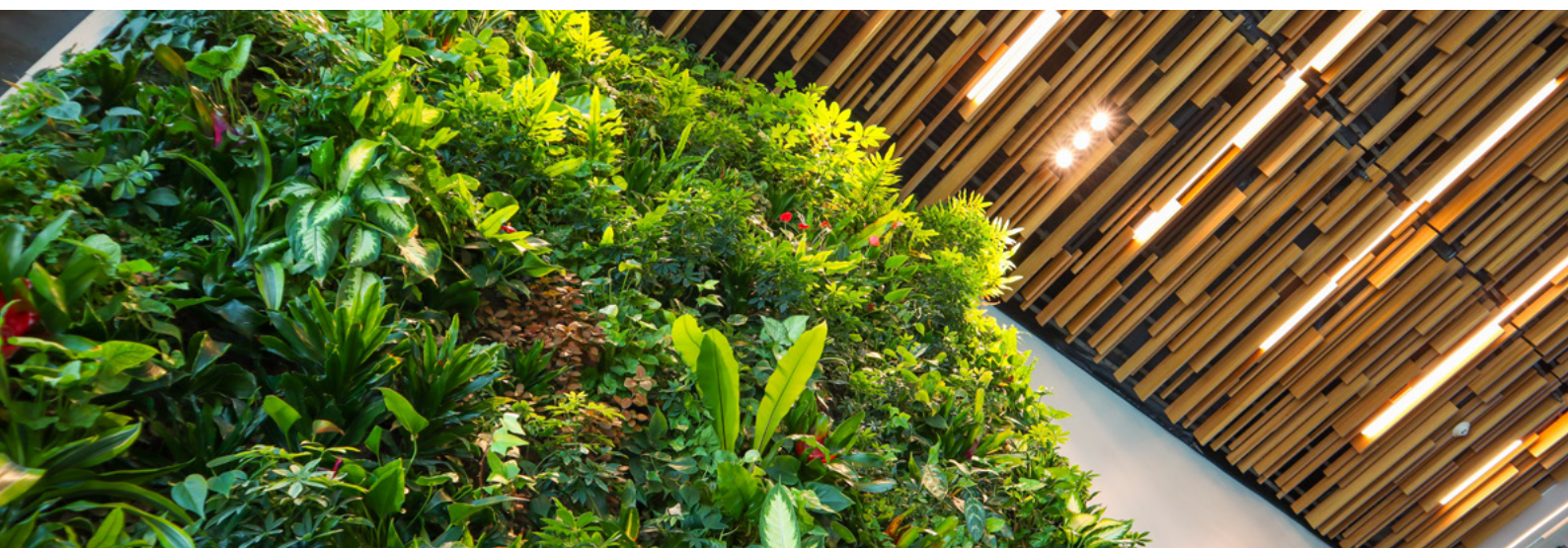
[Business Continuity Plans](#) (AusGov)

Some great templates and information about business continuity

Client engagement and preparedness (extreme heat):

[Building awareness and supporting clients from the workplace](#) (VicGov)

Resources to display at work and distribute to clients. How to support people by telephone, including telephone script template



Tools for home and family

Responding to the impacts of climate change and ecological injustice is a personal as well as organisational and governmental challenge. Transforming our homes as well as personal and family practices is something everyone can contribute to.



In this section you'll find resources and actions that might become meaningful points of connection with your clients that can build the wider practices and culture of adaptation.

It's important to acknowledge that sometimes the capacity to take personal action on climate change is dependent upon many other factors in life. Ecological goods and benefits, such as cooling, green space, financial resources to access renewable energy, can be privileges often denied to many communities.

Hopefully this section can introduce reflection and cultural change towards personal adaptation that is diverse and collectively inspiring as every person, home, family and eco-system is different and has different capacities.

Individual and household changes alone will not avert the risks of climate catastrophe but each action can make a difference to your safety, comfort, financial resilience and hopefully your spirits! These actions also contribute to improved shared knowledge and experience as well as our ability and willingness to take meaningful collaborative action - which is where the biggest impacts lie.

We encourage you to use these resources yourself and where appropriate to share them widely with our clients and community.

Tools for home and family



How to talk about climate change:

[Conversation Guide: Explaining Climate and Weather](#) (Climate Council)

"It's easy to get into a typical conversation about the weather. It's harder to talk about how changing weather patterns relate to climate change – especially when climate and weather can often get confused."

[Summer BBQ guide: Talking Energy](#) and [Mythbusting Guide for Christmas BBQ's](#)

['Climate Conversations' Programme](#) (Climate for Change)

Your opportunity to host a facilitated discussion about climate change in your home, among friends. "People process information - make sense of it, make decisions about it and take actions around it - through conversations with people they trust. This is how social change happens."

[How do I talk to kids about climate change?](#) (Australian Conservation Foundation)

Understanding climate change and health:

[Community Resources](#) (VicGov)

Images and social media resources to help raise awareness about the health impacts of climate change and the actions we can take to reduce our impact and stay healthy at the same time. See also 'Understanding Weather, Climate and Public Health' in the 'Tools for Work or Your Organisation' section of this resource kit.

Health and heat - information and communication support in diverse languages:

[Short animations - climate change and health](#) (Better Health Channel, VicGov)

Topics include; staying healthy in a changing climate, extreme weather events, reducing your impact and improving your health. Transcripts available in a range of languages.

[How to cope and stay safe in extreme heat](#) (PDF brochure, VicGov)

Know the effects of extreme heat, who is at risk and how you can prepare yourself and others. (Click [here](#) for printed copies and other languages)

Tools for home and family



[Extreme heat communication resources](#)

Resources developed by DHHS to encourage and educate individuals and the community about the impact of extreme heat on human health. Available in a range of formats with a number of resources translated into community languages.

[Better Health Channel: Extreme Heat](#)

Preparing for extreme heat, tips and practical resources to survive the heat, helping others and where to get help yourself.

Emergency preparedness:

[Are you prepared for an emergency?](#)

Take the quiz and complete the emergency pack checklist.

[Plan and general preparedness](#)

Easy-to-follow videos, information on how to subscribe to health alerts and emergency warnings. Hard copy booklet available for distribution.

'Greening' your home:

[Victorian Smart Renters' Guide](#) (Environment Victoria)

A fantastic resource that walks you through the rooms in your home to point out smart changes that will improve comfort, save money and are better for the environment.

[Sustainable Living Interactive Hub](#)

(Environment Victoria)

A snapshot of what a sustainable 'place' to live might look like, with a number of relevant actions that individuals and households can take.

[Sustainability for renters](#) (Environment Victoria)

Short printable flyer with key tips for home

[GIY \(Green-it-yourself\)](#)

How to actually do some of the things you've read about above!

"If you're not the handiest tool in the shed but want to make your home and lifestyle more energy efficient... GIY gives you simple step-by-step videos on how to make your home more energy efficient, your energy bills lower and your lifestyle a bit green around the edges."

Tools for home and family



[Check out your local Repair Cafe!](#)

Standing fan stopped working? Something else broken at home? You can take it to your local Repair Cafe - there are more than 20 in Victoria alone. These are community spaces where anyone can take something to get fixed - for free, learn some new skills along the way, have a cuppa and connect with others from the community. Find one near you to bring life back to your favourite items and divert goods from landfill while doing it.

Energy and energy efficiency:

[Solar Information for renters](#) (Solar Victoria)

Going Solar when you don't own your roof

Note: It's worth checking out your local council for any solar programmes or subsidies they may have on offer too.

[Solar for Community Housing](#) (Solar Victoria)

[Manage my energy](#) (DELWP, VicGov)

Links to energy saving tips, your guide to power outages, and Victorian Energy Compare: Independent advice on the best energy offers for you - be sure to look out for providers who offset their carbon footprint (carbon neutral) or better yet, those who offer up to 100% green energy products.

[Save energy and money](#) (DELWP, VicGov)

Save money on the installation of energy-efficient products, reduce your energy bill and help the environment by getting involved in Victorian Energy Upgrades.

[Energy Efficiency tips](#) (Energy Efficiency Council)

Even small changes in your home can make a difference - you can reduce the amount of energy you use without reducing your quality of life - become more comfortable, not less.

Victorian organisations providing training, advocacy and community organising on climate change:



[Centre for Just Places](#)

[Jesuit Social Services' Ecological Justice Hub](#)

[Climate Change Exchange, RMIT](#)

[Victorian Council of Social Services](#)

[CERES \(Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Sustainability\)](#)

[Seed: Indigenous Youth Climate Network](#)

[Climate for Change](#)

[Environment Victoria](#)

[Sustainability Victoria](#)

[Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute](#)

[Psychology for a Safe Climate](#)

[Climate Action Networks](#)

[Transition Towns](#)

[Extinction Rebellion](#)

[Sustainable Living Festival](#)

Contact us

The Centre for Just Places supports and enables place-based approaches to social and ecological justice through research, collaboration, engagement and knowledge exchange.

Enabling climate resilient and just communities is one of our focus areas. We work at the intersections of social inequity and climate change, collaborating with community members, community sector organisations, and local governments to increase local capacity, co-design actions, and build community resilience.

This Climate and Ecological Justice Resource Pack is part of a wider initiative to increase climate literacy and adaptive capacity across community sector organisations and local government, through workshops, engagement and resilience planning.

The Centre offers a range of other research and capacity-building services including:

- action research with diverse communities and the community sector
- the development of evidence-based indicators which amplify community members' intersecting experiences and highlight the underlying drivers of climate injustice
- design and delivery of place-based, climate justice community engagement strategies to support strategic planning and capacity strengthening for community resilience

If you're interested in learning more about our services, attending a climate resilience workshop, or hosting one for your local LGA or organisation, please get in touch. Contact Jack Piper at jack.piper@jss.org.au for more information.



Jesuit
Social Services
Building a Just Society



Centre for
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Resilient, inclusive &
regenerative communities

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