**Title:**

Creating the next generation of climate change responsible health professionals

**Purpose:**

Discuss the role of the National Rural Health Student Network (NRHSN) and its Rural Health Clubs affecting climate change at individual, local and systems levels.

**Overview:**

Climate change has direct and indirect impacts on the biological, psychological and social health of individuals and communities. Health impacts of climate change include those caused by extreme weather events such as heatwaves, floods, droughts and storms. Extreme weather events and climate change have been identified as two of the major drivers of water-borne disease. Other effects relate to changes in temperature, rainfall and air quality and include an increasing risk of communicable diseases (including emerging and re-emerging diseases), food-and water-related diseases, non-communicable disease, and effects on mental health. Climatic changes strongly influence the transmission of mosquito-borne diseases like Ross River Fever and Dengue Fever. Australia is currently experiencing the impact of climate change at a variety of levels, the impact on the rural, remote and Indigenous populations is disproportionately larger. Vulnerability to the health impacts of climate change is dependent on a multitude of factors such as poverty, poor standards of health, limited access to health care, low levels of education, sub-standard housing, malnutrition, poor access to water, sanitation and hygiene services. These factors also limit the adaptive capacity of populations as they attempt to respond to a changing climate. There is a need for adaptation of health strategies in Australia that can cater specifically to these vulnerable populations who are being exposed to adverse effects on their health due to climate change

**Recommendations and conclusion:**

Recommendations and conclusion are not available at the time of abstract submission. These will be finalised by the NRHSN’s National Council in August.