

RESISTANCE DOWN UNDER



In recent history, Australia has had a reputation as a “climate laggard”. The 2022 election was the most significant shift in Australian climate politics in a decade.

Voters delivered significant electoral swings towards candidates with stronger climate policies.

Australia now has a new government and the largest ever cross-bench, made up largely of pro-climate politicians.

The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) is an Australian health coalition which advocates for climate action.

Ahead of the Australian federal election, CAHA delivered a campaign with two clear goals:

1. Better climate-health policy:

The next federal government will implement a national plan for climate change and health.

2. Increased climate visibility:

The next federal government will feel that climate change was a visible election issue and affected the outcome of the election.





**Goal 1:
Achieving better climate-health policy.**

To achieve better climate-health policy, CAHA worked to directly engage political parties. Its core tools were a survey, a comprehensive analysis report and a climate-health scorecard. CAHA released its Federal Election Scorecard.

CAHA sent the scorecard to all Australian politicians, to Australian media, and to its network of supporters. It became a useful tool for direct engagement with politicians. It also informed Australian voters on how the parties' positions rated on climate change and health.

**Goal 2
Increasing the visibility of climate change.**

To increase climate visibility in the election, CAHA delivered a grassroots campaign in four strategic voting districts. CAHA was one of hundreds of organizations running pro-climate grassroots organizations. A key part of its success was cross-movement collaboration. It worked alongside a dedicated contingent of climate-focused community organizations.

By engaging health voices in political advocacy and collaborating with others, CAHA raised the profile of climate change in its chosen districts. In all of them, a candidate with better climate policies was elected.





BIGGEST LESSONS LEARNT

1.

The health community can strengthen political engagement by presenting evidence-based communication to decision-makers.

2.

The health community should collaborate with a broad coalition of allied organizations, from the climate sector or elsewhere.