

DONOR REPORT 2023-2024

Your generous support is making a real and lasting impact on the vital work Vets for Climate Action is undertaking to reduce the impact climate change is already having on the animals we love and care for.

We are immensely grateful for your donation, which has enabled us to work with you, our community and reach more and more in the profession through events, presentations, and Masterclasses, retain our committed and experienced staff, promote more sustainable veterinary care through the world-first Climate Care Program, advocate for stronger leadership and policies on climate change.



THANK YOU!

Steff Goldring, CEO
ceo@vfca.org.au

Our team and volunteers have worked tirelessly to educate veterinary professionals this year. We have reached 100s of vets, vet nurses, vet techs, veterinary students and other vet professionals by:

- hosting 8 online Masterclasses, with topics like *Wildlife Health & Climate Change*, and *How to Talk About Climate Change & Health*
- attending and speaking at over 8 industry events including Vet Expo 2023, the AVA Annual Conference, VNCA Conference, World Veterinary Association Summit in Cape Town, and CSU Vet School Trade Expo 2023
- online presentations through veterinary partners, including *Climate Change from a Veterinary Perspective: Science, Impacts and Solutions* with Boehringer Ingelheim's Animal Health Academy, University of Melbourne and The Lincoln Institute; and
- securing media and social media coverage, and providing media training through the Climate Media Centre. You can see our [media coverage here](#)



Chair, Dr Jeannet Kessels and volunteers Dr Annaliese Johnson and Aundria

GOAL 1: EDUCATION

We will ensure all vet professionals understand the impact of climate change on companion animals, livestock and wildlife, and support them with training, tools and strategies to act urgently on behalf of animals.



Dr Elise Anderson, Rural & Regional Programs Lead at AVA Conference May 2024

NEXT STEPS

Based on a recent survey, we know that veterinary professionals are concerned about climate change. However, we have more work ahead to ensure they have sufficient information to act on behalf of our animals. In 24/25 we will continue to leverage our growing partnerships and connections to provide opportunities to engage, inform and educate the whole profession.

93.7%

of surveyed vet professionals are **concerned** about the impact of **climate change** on animal health

93.3%

of respondents have been **personally or professionally** impacted by the effects of **climate change**

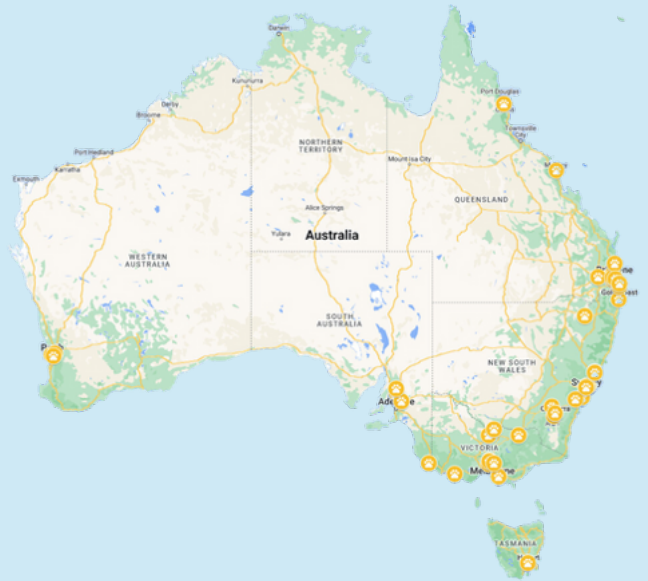
73%

do **not** have enough information to have **climate** conversations or take **climate** actions in their workplace or personal life

DONOR REPORT 2023-2024

GOAL 2: SUSTAINABILITY

We will mobilise our world-first online Climate Care Program to assist Australian & NZ veterinary practices to provide more sustainable veterinary care, reduce emissions and move towards Zero



45 PRACTICES & 50 CLIMATE CHAMPIONS NOW PARTICIPATE IN THE CLIMATE CARE PROGRAM

Climate Care Program TOWARDS ZERO

In May we formally launched the Climate Care Program to great media fanfare! Hosted by Greater Springfield Veterinary, the event was well attended by veterinary partners and supporters, all covered by [Channel 9 News](#).

Over the year, we have been ably advised by our Advisory Committee, comprised of 8 volunteers with vast experience from education, practice, and business. With thanks to Pangolin Associates, the Program now includes the first Carbon Calculator specifically for the Australian veterinary profession.

With your generous support, we have also showcased the Program at a number of veterinary events across the country, and we have grown our subscriber base to 45 practices, with 50 climate champions, including 11 of Animal Emergency Australia's teams.

The Program is driving results: Mona Vale Veterinary Hospital completed the last module of the Climate Care Program. They have adopted a number of initiatives including reducing their anaesthetic flow rates, and through more energy efficient practices they are now saving around \$1500 p.a on their energy bill!

We now offer support for the Program through free trials, our Climate Care Calls, Lunch & Learns, and practice visits by team members, where geographically possible.



Dr Jeremy Watson at the formal launch of the Climate Care Program May 2024

NEXT STEPS

VfCA is focussed on our goal to have the Program in 350 Vet Clinics by Dec 2025, and reducing the profession's impact on climate.

We will continue to update and innovate the Modules with feedback from subscribers and our Advisory Committee.

We are working with the NZVA to develop a version suitable for the NZ market.

We have new and existing partnerships to promote the CCP including with AVA, VNCA, Lincoln Institute, AVRA, and others!



DONOR REPORT 2023-2024

87.5%

of surveyed vet professionals believe that **veterinarians** have a **responsibility** to advocate for climate action

86.6%

of veterinary respondents would like their **state and fed MPs, and local government** to be acting on climate change

53%

do **not** know where to start to have **climate conversations** or take **climate actions** in their workplace or personal life

The veterinary profession is one of the most trusted occupations, rated 4 on the Governance Institute of Australia's Ethics Index 2022 (followed by nurses, fire and ambulance services). As the natural guardians of animal health and welfare, we have an increasingly influential voice for action on climate change.

Using that voice, we made 9 submissions to state and Federal legislative inquiries to ensure that the impact of climate change on our animals is considered in policy making, including the Animal Welfare Strategy Renewal, the EPBC Act Review and the Middle Arm Industrial Precinct.

RURAL & REGIONAL PROGRAM

2023/2024 was also the first full year of the Rural and Regional Program (RRP). The RRP engages with rural & regional practitioners to:

- educate on the impacts of climate change on animal health and veterinary practice
- provide practical tools for sustainability in practice
- empower vets to act as climate champions in their communities and networks, and
- advocate for strong policy and leadership on climate action at all levels.

The RRP is operating in regional NE Victoria, and has expanded to the Northern Rivers of NSW: both areas impacted by extreme weather events, exacerbated by climate change.

Over the year, we have visited 24 clinics, spoken with a number of vets and vet nurses, and developed a greater understanding of the threats they are dealing with. Read the [First Year Report here](#).



GOAL 3: ADVOCACY

We will collaborate with like-minded organisations, and use the veterinary profession's influential voice to advocate for urgent action, strong leadership and strong policies to mitigate the impact of climate change on the animals we love and care for.



NEXT STEPS

The Rural & Regional Program will:

- continue the outreach program with clinic visits and in-clinic education in our focus areas
- build relationships with federal and state MPs in tandem with local clinicians
- seek funding to return to the Northern Rivers to build on the work done there in May 2024
- establish regional chapters of VfCA supporters in N/NE Victoria and the Northern Rivers in NSW
- host advocacy workshops for regional climate champions
- look to develop an online Advocacy Module to run in tandem with the Climate Care Program

We appreciate your continued support as we seek to raise at least \$150,000 this financial year to progress our goals.



Please feel free to share this newsletter with friends and colleagues, and invite them to become a [Voice for All Animals](#)