



Climate change and infectious diseases in Australia: current risk, future projection and responses

Abstract

Climate change has and will continue to lead to increased infectious disease transmission and challenge our already overloaded healthcare system. Using both quantitative and qualitative research approaches, this project will contribute four major outputs to inform public health policy and practice in Australia: 1) quantify the associations between climate variability and two representative infectious diseases with contrasting transmission pathways: one vector-borne (Ross River virus infection), and one food-borne (Salmonella infection) over the period of 1997-2022. The climate-related contribution to healthcare costs will be estimated for each disease; 2) To map the selected infectious disease burden among Australians at the national level and subnational levels (SA3) across Australia to provide location-specific evidence for policymakers and health service providers for tailored responses; 3) based on these results, project the future infectious disease burden in the context of different climate change scenarios in Australia; and 4) examine the current capacity to deal with emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases from a healthcare workforce and response perspective at both State and local government levels via questionnaire surveys, key informant interviews, focus group and workshops.

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