



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Climate Change and Health:

Knowledge for decision-making

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ANU

Climate Change Adaptation Research Network for Human Health

**The Network will improve Australian
knowledge about climate change
adaptation and human health to enable
decision-making by government,
industry and communities.**

Objectives

- **Build research and decision-making capacity by:**
 - focusing on mentoring and support for early- and mid-career researchers and policymakers
 - attracting and leveraging new funding
- **Facilitate collaboration between researchers, policymakers and practitioners (including involvement across the research cycle)**
- **Foster interdisciplinary research and emerging research methods**
- **Communicate research findings in ways relevant to different sectors and varying regional conditions**

The spectrum of climate change-related physical and mental health considerations

Specific themes

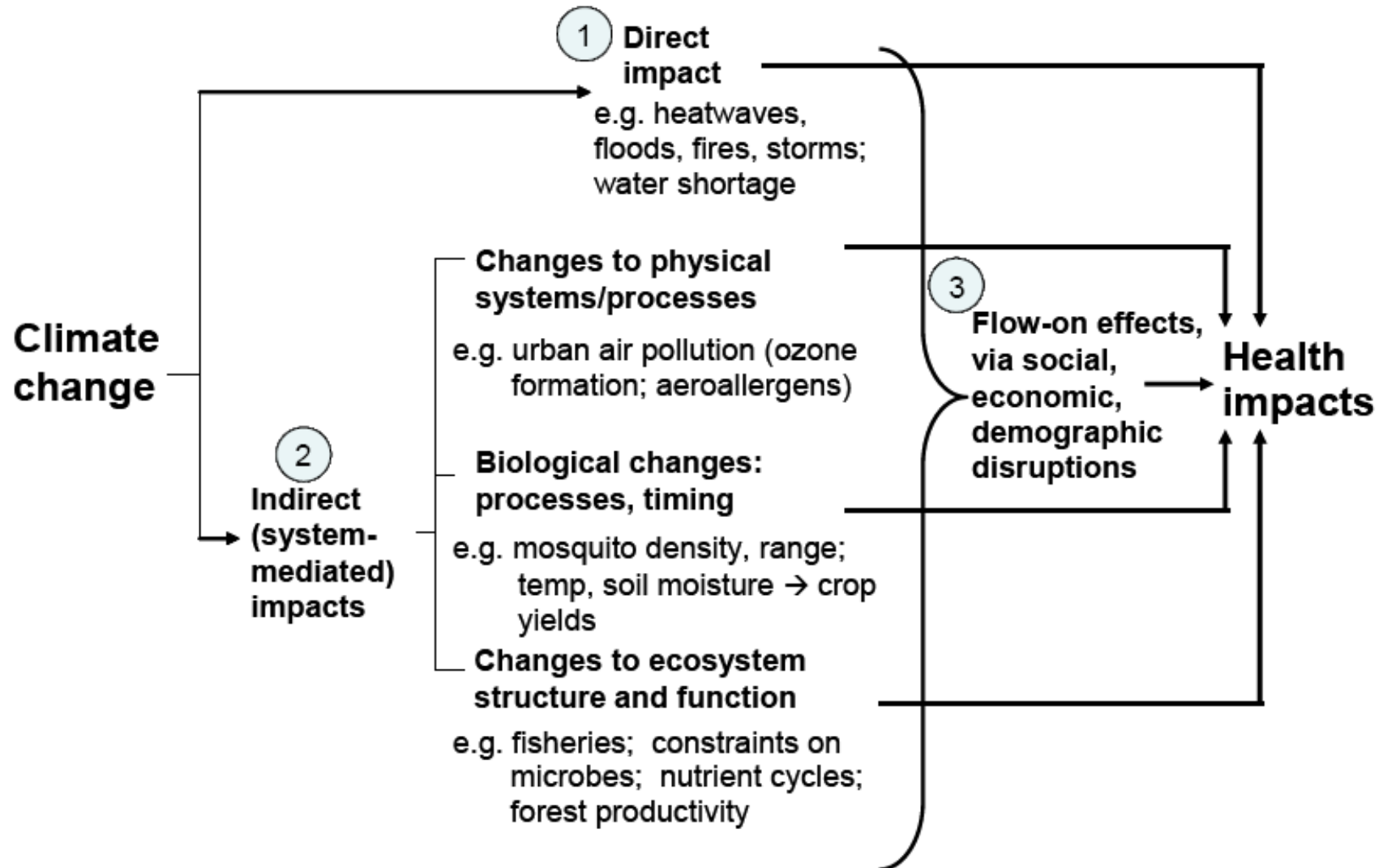
- **Water quality and security***
- **Thermal stress and air pollution**
- **Extreme weather events and disaster management***
- **Food safety and security***
- **Infectious diseases**
- **Mental health**
- **Health services**

Cross-cutting issues

- Rural communities
- Urban communities
- Indigenous communities
- Climate science for health research
- Advanced research methods

- **National Adaptation Research Plan**
- **Discussion papers on main themes**
 - **Guide thematic networking and baseline**
 - **Current knowledge of the issue**
 - **Current policy responses**
 - **Policy-relevant research priorities**
- **Collection of papers for ANZJPH**
- **Opportunity for practitioners and policy makers**

Health impacts of climate change



- **Health system can lead**
(NSW Health largest consumer of energy)
- **9% of GDP – a lot of economic muscle**
 - **Buildings**
 - **Food**
 - **Medical equipment**
 - **Office supplies, furniture**
 - **Transport**

- **Surveillance**
- **Disease control**
- **Health promotion**
- **Disaster preparedness – surge capacity**
- **Workforce capacity**

Options for our College

- **Training of physicians**
- **Continuing professional development**
- **Policy**
- **Advocacy**
- **Operations – green decisions**

**Play our part to reinforce the
Foundations of Population Health**

10 practical steps for doctors

Griffiths, Hill, Spity, Stott. BMJ 28 June 2008

1. Inform ourselves
2. Advise our patients
3. Use less energy
4. Reduce motorised transport
5. Influence food menus
6. Advocate locally for specific actions
7. Advocate healthy global action
8. Advocate stabilisation of population
9. Be a champion
10. Join a movement