



## RESEARCHER PROFILE

# Dr Marion Carey

2009–11

“By supporting this research, VicHealth is demonstrating vision and leadership to help understand and develop responses to the problem that has been termed the biggest global health threat of the twentieth-first century”.

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**Dr Marion Carey is program leader of the “Climate Change, Biodiversity and Health Program” of the Monash Sustainability Institute. This program aims to identify and explore new and emerging research questions and build knowledge related to the health consequences of climate change and the decline in biodiversity.**

Dr Carey is a public health physician with extensive experience in environmental health, and is a Fellow of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine. Prior to taking up her VicHealth Fellowship, she worked in the Victorian Department of Human Services as Senior Medical Adviser in Environmental Health to the Chief Health Officer where she was involved in the response to the 2009 heatwave and bushfires, and took a lead role in developing new areas of research and policy in relation to the health impacts of climate change.

Her research interests include the importance of biodiversity to human health, how heat and air pollution combined will affect public health under climate change, how primary health care can adapt to heat health impacts, how services to the homeless can adapt to the increasing challenges of extreme weather, how long term water insecurity affects health and well-being in rural areas, and health impacts of energy technologies such as coal seam gas mining and wind farms.

According to the World Health Organization, the real bottom line of climate change is its risk to human health and quality of life, as it will affect in profoundly adverse ways some of the most fundamental prerequisites for good health: clean air and water, sufficient food, adequate shelter, and freedom from disease. Innovative multidisciplinary ways need to be found to understand and respond to these complex problems.