Health and environment scorecard
Australia

World Health Organization

Air pollution

Extent of the problem

1x the WHO air quality guideline value for $PM_{2.5}$

WHO Guideline (annual mean): 5 µg/m³

Australia annual mean: 7 µg/m³

0% of population without clean fuels and technology for cooking

Health impact

8% of deaths from stroke and ischaemic heart disease caused by air pollution[1]

0 8% 100

[1] Air pollution causes many other diseases and adverse health outcomes, stroke and ischaemic heart disease have been chosen for this country scorecard

Policies

Existence of legal standards for $PM_{2.5}$

✓ ✗

Compliant with WHO Air Quality Guidelines

NO DATA

Existence of national policy on household energy

NO DATA

WASH

Extent of the problem

Percentage of population without safe drinking water[2]

NO DATA

20% of population without safe sanitation[2]

[2] Operationalised as using safely managed drinking water and sanitation services

Health impact

8% of deaths from diarrhoea caused by unsafe drinking water, sanitation and inadequate personal hygiene

0 8% 100

Policies

Financial resources available for implementation of national plans

	Urban	Rural
Drinking water	NO DATA	NO DATA
Sanitation	NO DATA	NO DATA
Hygiene	NO DATA	NO DATA

Climate change

Extent of the problem

Percentage of hot days[3] in 2050 under a high emissions scenario

NO DATA

[3] Hot days are defined as approximate days on which the maximum temperature is among the historical (1961-1990) top 10% of warmest days recorded at a specific location, for a specific time of the year. High emissions scenario RCP8.5 - Representative Concentration Pathway 8.5

Analysis conducted by the Climatic Research Unit and Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, University of East Anglia, 2015

Health impact

Heat deaths in 2050 compared to 1961-1990 period under a high emissions scenario[4]

NO DATA

[4] High emissions scenario RCP8.5 - Representative Concentration Pathway 8.5

Policies

Existence of national health and climate change plan or strategy

NO DATA

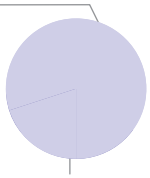
Health and environment scorecard: Australia

Chemicals

Extent of the problem

International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity score for chemical events

IHR capacity score of **100%** for chemical events[5]



0% not attained

[5] Key informants report on attainment of a set of attributes for chemical events (core capacity 12) using a standard WHO instrument

Health impact

Less than 1 out of 100,000 children under five die from poisonings every year

Policies

Existence of legal limit on lead paint

Existence of a poison centre

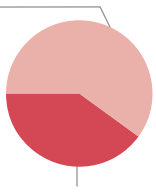
Party to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Radiation

Extent of the problem

International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity score for radiation emergencies

IHR capacity score of **60%** for radiation emergencies[6]



40% not attained

[6] Key informants report on attainment of a set of attributes for radiation emergencies (core capacity 13) using a standard WHO instrument

Health impact

9 out of 100,000 people die from melanoma and other skin cancers every year

Australia compared to regional values:

Ranking: 20th of 21 countries in the Western Pacific region

Less than 1 out of 100,000 people die from residential radon every year

Policies

Existence of standards on electromagnetic fields

Existence of regulation of artificial tanning devices/sun beds

Existence of national radon regulations for dwellings

Occupational health

Extent of the problem

Percentage of informal employment in total employment

NO DATA

1% of the working age population exposed to long working hours (≥55 hours/week)

Health impact

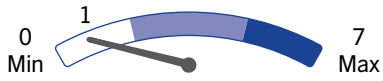
29 out of 100,000 people of working age die from diseases due to occupational risks every year

Australia compared to regional values:

Ranking: 16th of 21 countries in the Western Pacific region

1 out of 100,000 people of working age die from injuries due to occupational risks every year

Australia compared to regional values:



Ranking: 8th of 21 countries in the Western Pacific region

Policies

Existence of programmes for occupational health and safety of health workers

1 of 3 key international labour conventions on occupational safety and health ratified

C155	C161	C187
Occupational safety and health	Occupational health services	Promotional framework
✓	✗	✗

References

Air pollution: WHO global air quality guidelines 2021 • WHO SDG Indicator 11.6.2 Concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM2.5); 2016 data • WHO household air pollution data; 2019 data • WHO air pollution data portal; health impact data for 2016 • UNEP 2021: Regulating air quality: the first global assessment of air pollution legislation; data for 2020 • WHO Household energy policy repository; data continuously updated. **WASH:** WHO, UNICEF: Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2020 data • WHO water, sanitation and hygiene: burden of disease, 2016 data • WHO GLAAS 2018/2019 cycle. **Climate change:** Honda et al. 2014 • WHO: Climate change and country profiles. **Chemicals:** WHO: Average of 13 International Health Regulations core capacity scores, 2020 data • WHO: Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisonings; data for 2019 • WHO: legally binding controls for lead paint, updated 2021 • WHO: World directory of poison centres, updated 2021 • UNEP: Minamata Convention on Mercury, 2021 data. **Radiation:** WHO: Average of 13 International Health Regulations core capacity scores, 2020 data • WHO: Deaths from melanoma and other skin cancers, 2019 data • IHME: Deaths from residential radon, 2019 data • WHO: Electromagnetic fields, updated 2018 • WHO: Legislation on artificial tanning sunbeds, updated 2021 • WHO: National radon regulations, 2019 data. **Occupation:** ILOSTAT: informal economy, updated 2022 • WHO/ILO: Disease burden from long working hours, 2016 data • WHO/ILO: Joint estimates of the work-related burden of disease and injury, 2016 data • WHO: Occupational health and safety programmes for health workers, 2021 data • ILO ratifications of C155, C161 and C187, updated 2021.