

## Proposal for NZAP to join Ora Taiao – The New Zealand Climate and Health Council - Health professionals calling for urgent and fair climate action.

Ora Taiao has 700 individual members and thirteen large organisational members including the NZ Psychological Society. The organisational members donation rate is \$200 per year.

### What membership has enabled in the last year :

- **[A submission guide](#) for the Climate Change Commission's draft advice to the government**
- **Letter to finance ministers** asking for a healthy, just, climate-friendly budget signed by 16 health professional groups. See [here](#).
- **Webinar series on climate and health** organised with Uni of Otago. See [here](#).
- **Health input to the Zero Carbon Bill** via written submission, submission guide, and an oral submission (video [here](#)) to the Select Committee together with the NZMA, NZNO, Public Health Association, and the NZ College of Public Health Medicine - followed by an [event on the steps of Parliament](#).
- **2nd Sustainable Healthcare Forum** (together with the SHSNN), opened by the Director General of Health, and with presentation of an open letter from >900 health professionals to [Julie-Anne Genter](#) asking for DHBs to be required to reduce and report GHG emissions.
- **Co-convenor and member presentations, meetings and networking leading to** more signatories to the joint health ["Call for Action on Climate Change and Health"](#) and more health sector organisations joining up to be [organisational members](#) of OraTaiao.
- **Climate friendly food/diets** were discussed in articles we published in [Consumer Magazine](#) and [Environmental Health Perspectives](#). Other articles in media see here.
- **Support for the global climate strikes** that were initiated by students and timed to coincide with the UN Climate Summit. We emailed members, sent out a media statement, and created a [symbolic 'medical certificate'](#). Our members turned out holding OraTaiao banners [all over NZ](#).
- **Increased social media presence:** 1,550 followers on Facebook and 1,120 followers on Twitter.
- **A Lancet paper** (with a supporting editorial) about the pros, cons, and ethical considerations around health professionals participating in peaceful civil disobedience in response to the climate-health emergency. See [here](#).
- **Media releases**, opinion pieces, and **input into policy** through [publications](#) and [submissions](#)
- **Employment of coordinator** Julia Crosfield 10 hours/week. Her expertise and skills in science and policy communication are boosting our impact.
- **Board membership** of the Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA)

Dermot Coffey the co-convenor wrote this email to me about why we should join:

“From our perspective, our ability to deliver our message is strengthened- predicated completely on, you could say- our membership, whether individual or organisational. As we're the only pan-healthcare group working in the area of climate change advocacy, and as there has been a tendency for health, wellbeing and equity to be sidelined in discussions on our climate change response, it makes our advocacy crucial. I believe as well that we have at our base a very simple and effective message- that health and climate change are intrinsically linked, and that our climate change response should be seen through this lens. We have

significantly grown our membership in recent years, and the increased awareness of our work among health organisations is testament to the increased desire for climate change action. While we encourage and are hugely grateful for any time our members can volunteer, and obviously financial donations help fund the crucial position of co-ordinator within the organisation, the main benefit of increased membership for us is that it adds weight to our message. A single common voice on this from the health community is crucial.

For our organisational members, the benefits come down to the same thing- adding your organisation's voice to ours increases and improves your advocacy on climate change. There are of course areas where we work together and we are particularly welcoming of organisations who can strengthen our message- in the relatively neglected field of mental health impacts of climate change for example. You have an opportunity to promote our work (and yours as a member!) to your own membership. None of this would replace your own advocacy on climate change- rather it would add to it.

Please let me know if there are any other specific questions- particularly if there are areas of joint work you'd see as key."