

**Title of Proposed Co-creation Session**

(Sentence case, maximum 200 characters, including spaces)

Accelerating climate resilience in health systems across the Pacific: Priorities and pathways

**Abstract: Maximum 1200 words, excluding title and references**

*Summary of proposed co-creation session, including details about the format as well as methods used for co-creation, aims and expected outcomes, significance of the event and rationale for format delivery and methods for hybrid inclusivity.*

**Session summary:**

While the Pacific region encompasses diverse cultural, social, politico-economic and environmental realities, the region is also home to populations most at-risk of exposure to climate-related health risks and impacts<sup>1</sup>. There are many examples of resilience building among Pacific populations, however high rates of non-communicable diseases create vulnerabilities that can exacerbate adverse climate-related health outcomes<sup>2</sup>. Pacific communities that are spread across multiple and geographically dispersed islands can face challenges with access to health services and have experienced extreme weather events devastating health infrastructure<sup>3</sup>. Coupled with a dynamic and potentially volatile geopolitical and economic context, identifying priorities and following pathways to accelerate local health system resilience is imperative.

What is required to safeguard human health outcomes across the Pacific in the face of a changing climate? How do country-level contexts inform decision-making on building health system resilience? Are there common priorities and pathways forward given national and regional differences?

This Talanoa comprises four eminent speakers representing distinct entities across the Pacific and beyond who are actively contributing to the advancement of improved climate-related health outcomes through the delivery of effective adaptation interventions that build climate resilient health systems. Topics covered will include governance, intersectoral collaboration, political will, climate finance, and the importance of courage and storytelling. The event has been carefully designed to contribute to conference objectives and themes, providing a forum for knowledge exchange and co-creation between international climate and health stakeholders, researchers, policymakers and practitioners. The Talanoa will engage with cross-cutting issues, including finance; enabling conditions; justice and equity; and climate resilient development.

**Format and methods incl. rationale:****Format:**

Each speaker will be invited to contribute a 10-minute 'provocation' to set the scene and scope of the Talanoa (50 minutes in total). The stories shared by the five speakers will catalyse conversations for the remaining 40 minutes of the Talanoa. Dr Belle Workman will act as Moderator for the Talanoa, upholding Talanoa principles of inclusion,

reconciliation and mutual respect<sup>4</sup>. While a Talanoa is a free-flowing discussion, the Moderator will use a series of prompts to garner participant input.

While process is just as (if not more) important as outcomes in a Talanoa, with the permission of attendees, deidentified contributions to the conversation will be captured by University of Melbourne observers so that learnings can iteratively build upon shared understandings, knowledges and practices relating to climate-related health outcomes and climate resilient health systems. This signals our recognition of, and commitment to, equitable dialogue; all participant experiences and contributions are important and respected, and can support resilience and adaptive capacity building.

At the close of the Talanoa, participants will be invited to join an emerging regional Climate and Health Community of Practice led by PCCC and the University of Melbourne as a tangible avenue for sustaining engagement and collaboration, and building regional capacity.

#### Methods:

A Talanoa is, by definition, an inclusive and participatory process<sup>5</sup>. It recognises storytelling as a powerful tool to build shared understandings and enable the representation of diverse voices and perspectives. Accordingly, this event will draw on participatory techniques that support the equitable involvement of attendees and mutual learning. This is particularly important given the hybrid nature of the event.

In practice, the Moderator will establish 'ground rules' to ensure the principles of inclusion, reconciliation and mutual respect are upheld. Participants will be encouraged to respectfully engage in a robust conversation, asking questions and sharing experiences, successes, challenges, and needs from their respective settings. The Moderator will manage participant involvement, proactively inviting contributions from attendees if needed to manage any dominating behaviours. Participants will be asked to briefly introduce themselves (name and organisation) ahead of their contribution to the Talanoa; this will facilitate the Moderator to proactively invite contributions from underrepresented groups during the Talanoa.

#### Aims and expected outcomes:

##### Aims:

- To build a comprehensive understanding among participants of existing and emerging health risks and impacts in the Pacific, and identified priorities by key regional and international organisations and governments to build local health system resilience;
- To share innovative and inclusive research and practice approaches to enhance health system resilience that embraces and elevates the fundamental role of local and Traditional Knowledges and practices, and builds local capacity to benefit the health and wellbeing of current and future generations;
- To explore diverse funding vehicles to sustainably maintain momentum on addressing climate-related risks to, and impacts on, health systems across the region;

- To catalyse conversations on local experiences of, and responses to, climate-related health risks and impacts to facilitate knowledge exchange.

Expected outcomes:

Following this Talanoa, attendees will have:

- a comprehensive understanding of the latest evidence and gaps on regional climate-related health risks and impacts, priorities and funding mechanisms;
- a fuller understanding of the latest approaches to ethically driven climate and health research and practice;
- exchanged context-specific experiences, knowledge and action.

#### Significance:

This Talanoa provides an interactive environment for attendees to engage with world-leading actors driving enhanced knowledge and practice of climate resilient health systems to address climate-related health risks and impacts. At a time when global political and environmental changes are dynamic, this Talanoa brings constructive dialogue through its exploration of sustainable and inclusive pathways forward.

#### **References:**

1. Bowen, Kathryn J., et al. "Human health and climate change in the Pacific: a review of current knowledge." *Climate and Development* 16.2 (2024): 119-133.
2. McIver, Lachlan, et al. "Health impacts of climate change in Pacific Island countries: a regional assessment of vulnerabilities and adaptation priorities." *Environmental health perspectives* 124.11 (2016): 1707-1714.
3. Taylor, Subhashni. "The vulnerability of health infrastructure to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise in small island countries in the South Pacific." *Health Services Insights* 14 (2021): 11786329211020857.
4. Robinson, David, and Robinson, Kayt. "Pacific ways of talk – hui and talanoa." (2005). Available at <https://www.communityresearch.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/formidable/robinson4.pdf>
5. UNFCCC. "2018 Talanoa Dialogue Platform." (2018). Available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement/2018-talanoa-dialogue-platform>

## **PARTICIPANTS**

### **Participant 1**

**Full Name:** Dr Sandro Demaio

**Organisation:** World Health Organization Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health

**Bio (up to 50 words)**

Dr Sandro Demaio is Director and Head of Office at WHO's Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health. He is a medical doctor and a globally-renowned public health expert and advocate. Previous roles include CEO at VicHealth and the EAT Foundation, and Medical Officer for non-communicable conditions and nutrition at WHO.

**Participant 1 Contribution:**

(Maximum 250 words, excluding references)

Sandro will provide fundamental context on health outcomes across the Pacific during a time of politico-economic and environmental dynamism. As a senior representative of the leading international health body, he will discuss regional evidence gaps, priorities and activities by multilateral agencies, highlighting key contributions and opportunities to accelerate adaptation action to achieve improved health outcomes in a changing climate.

**Participant 2**

**Full Name:** Ms 'Ofa Kaisamy

**Organisation:** Pacific Climate Change, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

**Bio (up to 50 words)**

Ms 'Ofa Kaisamy is Manager of the Pacific Climate Change Centre. She studied a Master of Laws in Environment Law at the Australian National University. In her role, she drives innovation and ensures practical information is shared successfully between regional meteorological services, climate practitioners, policy makers and project implementers.

**Participant 2 Contribution:**

(Maximum 250 words, excluding references)

'Ofa will draw on her intimate knowledge following years of supporting policymakers and practitioners across the Pacific to discuss the critical importance of Local and Traditional Knowledges to accelerating adaptation action in the Pacific. She will discuss current approaches used to engage with local communities on their experiences of climate change, and share PCCC's efforts to support the inclusion of Traditional Knowledges in decision-making processes through its brokering role across sectors and services.

**Participant 3**

**Full Name:** Prof Kathryn Bowen

**Organisation:** The University of Melbourne

**Bio (up to 50 words)**

Professor Kathryn Bowen is Deputy Director at Melbourne Climate Futures, and Professor of Environment, Climate and Global Health at The University of Melbourne. She works in global environmental change, global health and governance issues. She was a Lead Author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report.

**Participant 3 Contribution:**

(Maximum 250 words, excluding references)

Kathryn will share invaluable knowledge and insights from over 20 years as an individual regularly commissioned by international bilateral and multilateral agencies (e.g. WHO, DFAT, UNEP, UNDP, ADB, GIZ, DFAT) to co-design solutions with policymakers and practitioners to drive positive health and other outcomes. This will include sharing details

of a Wellcome Trust-funded project, PAVE Health, which is supporting local capacity building and co-designed adaptation solutions to build climate resilience in four Pacific Island Countries: Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and the Federated States of Micronesia.

#### **Participant 4**

**Full Name:** Ms Lauren Mills

**Organisation:** Wellcome Trust

**Bio (up to 50 words)**

Lauren is a Research Manager for Climate Impacts and Adaptation in the Climate and Health team at Wellcome, which supports science to address the world's most urgent health challenges. Lauren leads Wellcome's portfolio on the impacts of heat on maternal and child health and oversees the newly established Climate and Mental Health Awards.

#### **Participant 4 Contribution:**

(Maximum 250 words, excluding references)

Lauren will provide an overview of finance as an enabling condition to build adaptive capacity to address climate-related health risks and impacts across the Pacific. Specifically, she will speak to finance as an enabling condition to build adaptive capacity to address climate-related health risks and impacts across the Pacific, with specific reference to new Wellcome funding and ways that Wellcome is stretching itself as a funder to incorporate Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge in its work.

#### **Participant 5**

**Full Name:** Dr Belle Workman

**Organisation:** The University of Melbourne

**Bio (up to 50 words)**

Belle is a qualitative researcher with interests including climate change, human health, policy development, air quality and just energy transitions. She completed a PhD investigating the role of health co-benefits in the development of climate change mitigation policies in 2019 at the University of Melbourne. She is now a Senior Research Fellow at Melbourne Climate Futures, where she is a co-Deputy Director of the Climate CATCH Lab and the Stream Lead for Policy and Politics.

#### **Participant 5 Contribution:**

(Maximum 250 words, excluding references)

Belle will act as Moderator for this session, responsible for keeping panellists to time and ensuring inclusive participatory practices are followed to enable a successful Talanoa.

#### **Hybrid Platform requirements**

**Please note that a AF2025 has made every effort in budget constraints to encourage hybrid participation. There will be nine hybrid rooms with fixed**

cameras and technical support. Allocation of hybrid rooms will be made by the Science Committee. Please indicate if you are requesting a hybrid format: :

- **We request a hybrid format (similar to Zoom/Webinar or Teams).**
- **Our time zone preferences are:**

| Location     | Time |
|--------------|------|
| Christchurch | 1100 |
| Apia         | 1100 |
| Seoul        | 0700 |
| Melbourne    | 0900 |
| London       | 2300 |

- **We are not requesting a hybrid format**