

Australian Youth Delegation to Model UN
Ideas and suggestions for the WHEN Briefing/Workshop – Communicating
Climate Change & Health

- Shifting your paradigm is a choice which shapes your future – as Mother Teresa said, “If you can’t feed 1,000 people, just feed one.” If you can’t change climate degeneration, just change your lifestyle. We must empower ourselves to make a change.
- Every bit counts can sometimes feel unbelievable – if our results are measurable, it motivates us
- There needs to be a link between the environmental ramifications of climate change and health – this link needs to be made clear to the youth
- Youth should be encouraged to forget the idea that older people will solve the problem – Youth will inherit the problem but it is their issue starting at a very young age
- As young people, you aren’t powerless – changing your consumption habits influences others, etc
- Change focus of debate to how climate change is going to affect ME – localise!
- Tell us the effects of our help. We know how to help, tell us why we should inconvenience ourselves.
- Make the cost of changing to renewable energies a cheaper, easier option
- The best method to address youth is through the one universal activity which young people are engaged with – education. Target schools, teach people the facts of climate change, and make environment a universal mindset.
- Youth want RELIABLE information which is short, sharp and relevant to them as both young people and human beings
- There is a fear amongst many youth that efforts towards climate change will compromise lifestyle and the ability to enjoy all aspects of life
- The issue of climate change may seem too large for any one person to tackle – but climate change will directly affect everyone. Youth need to take charge of their future and get all their voices heard.
- Youth need to be approached on a number of different levels:
 - they need reliable education in schools
 - need to be concerned about what their government is doing
 - need to be told what they can do in their life (easily)
 - they need to want to do it (make it “cool”)
- The message to young people that climate change is YOUR issue; your lives will be changed when your environment does. Young people need to OWN the issue and have less of the “blame game” for older generations.
- Explain to youth what has already occurred due to climate change rather than projections. Explain present health risks and how these are being exacerbated due to climate change.
- Don’t change to energy-saving light bulbs; don’t install a solar panel; change the local coal power station and change your environment
- Don’t wait another day – every bit counts!

- Let the benefits of adopting an environmentally sustainable life be emphasised and made widely available to the youth and families – for example, using water heating insulation saves 10% of energy consumption
- The most powerful messages are those that engage a combination of altruism and self-interest: assert the humanitarian aspects, sure, but bring home the personal relevance
- Protest today – change the world tomorrow. The youth will provide the leaders of tomorrow. Convince the leaders and you will move mountains.
- IT'S YOU:
 - not the government
 - not the adults
 - not industry
 - not anybody else
- The most important part of getting a message out there is ensuring it is the RIGHT message – celebrity endorsement does so much in raising awareness, but it is crucial that the public is engaged with due respect for their intellectual capabilities and given a sincere perspective
- Focus on health. We know the facts, it's a part of our life. Focus on the effects we don't know.
- Climate change is helping bacterial-borne diseases spread. Carbon offsetting can save x number of impoverished children
- Use the stairs!
- I believe the environment and climate change has since Rio changed presumptions of discourse, but not presumptions of action
- Promote the idea, to youth and adults, that climate change is not only a risk to the environment, but to personal health and security. This resonates much better on a personal level.
- The future of the climate is today; the climate of today is the future
- Activism is not dead, but it is not the same. We don't protest, we blog.
- We need an actual political action to back and promulgate to feel we are doing anything and even instigate further action
- Give us something shocking. Make it dramatic and we'll be inspired to action.
- Climate change does more than just warm the earth; it causes disease epidemics, tribal warfare, and the disappearance of entire populations
- Do what you can to deal with climate change despite, and to counter, a lack of political action
- Young people live for their networks – digital, peeps, family, school. Affect a peer, change a network.
- The message of climate change is best delivered not through celebrities and movies or television (these have limited lifespans and do end), but through the one means that connect ALL youth – schools and education
- UN must promote the idea that climate change is immediate, and perhaps resist constant coverage of timespans that seem far off and irrelevant to the youth, eg 2020