Putting a focus on health equity for the 2022 Federal election

CROAKEY HEALTH MEDIA
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1. INTRODUCTION

In the six months leading up to the 2022 Federal election, Croakey published 94 election-related articles from 65 contributors. These put a sustained focus on key health equity issues, including the climate crisis, the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, health reform, social determinants of health, media-related issues, COVID, the health and aged care workforce, housing, aged care, integrity in government, the Uluru Statement from the Heart, primary healthcare, justice-related concerns, mental health and the health of LGBTIQ communities. We also covered the implications for health of the rise of Independent candidates.

We hosted several special projects to provide accountability reporting of the LNP Government’s reporting and health-related election policies advanced by the major parties, the Greens and various Independents.

On Twitter, we curated a high-impact Twitter stream at #AusVotesHealth2022, with 1,529 accounts participating at the hashtag, sending a total of 5,087 tweets and with 47 million potential impacts.

We convened five webinars, to provide a platform for our communities to connect and exchange news and views, and to inform our journalism.

We thank and acknowledge all who contributed to our election coverage and to #AusVotesHealth2022.
2. PUBLISHING

3 November 2021 – 4 June 2022

94 articles

65 contributors

Special projects

**The Election Wrap** – 7 columns, by Associate Professor Lesley Russell and Jennifer Doggett, with contributions by Dr Melissa Sweet, Alison Barrett and Dr Anny Huang

The [#AusVotesHealth2022 election report card](#AusVotesHealth2022) – compiled by Associate Professor Lesley Russell; designed by Mitchell Ward

The **#AusVotesHealth2022 election report card** – compiled by Associate Professor Lesley Russell; designed by Mitchell Ward

The **Accountability Report**. Documenting Health Minister Greg Hunt’s legacy – compiled by Associate Professor Lesley Russell, with contributions by Dr Anny Huang; designed by Mitchell Ward

At the end of 46th Parliament, the Minister for Health and Aged Care Greg Hunt announced his retirement. He has held this ministerial position for five years and 57 days; only Dr Michael Wooldridge (five years and 260 days) and Dr Neal Blewett (seven years and 24 days) have been Health Minister for longer. What is Hunt’s legacy, and how could this be measured?

Arguably the key feature of his tenure is the opportunities foregone for meaningful reforms to better integrate Australia’s fractured healthcare system and align it with population needs in the 21st century, as brutally exposed by the pandemic. Put bluntly, that translates as someone who has too often been able to find an excuse for today by election making and who has endlessly responded to the need for further advice, committees and taskforces, even in the face of mountains of reports, evidence and recommendations.

To demonstrate this point, I decided to make a compilation of reports, inquiries, evaluations, plans, strategies and advisory groups that have delivered information and recommendations and imperatives for action over the life of the 46th Parliament. They are presented, with some brief assessments of the attention paid to them, in the table below.

I am quite sure this compilation is incomplete but serves to make the point that the next person to hold this Cabinet position will be confronted with volumes of recommendations from experts about what must be done, and an enormous pile of unfinished business left by their predecessor.

I am very grateful for the diligent assistance of Dr Anny Huang in compiling this table.

– Associate Professor Lesley Russell
Federal Budget and election series

Part one: Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, Consumers Health Forum of Australia, LGBTIQ+ Health Australia, National Rural Health Alliance, Public Health Association of Australia, health policy analyst Charles Maskell-Knight.

Part two: The National Health Leadership Forum, Australian College of Nursing, Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes.

Part three: Australian Physiotherapy Association, the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, Philanthropy Australia.

Part four: Change the Record coalition, Mitchell Institute at Victoria University, Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

Part five: Centre for Air pollution, energy and health Research (CAR); the Obesity Policy Coalition.

Change the Record @Change_Record · 1m
Thanks @CroakeyNews 😊

Melissa Sweet @MelissaSweetDr · 18m
Now featuring on @CroakeyNews homepage: a link to @Change_Record election priorities. And you can also click through to read them in full here: changetherecord.org.au/electionplatform... #AusVotesHealth2022 #SDOH

Show this thread
3 of the climate articles were shared with the global media collaboration, Covering Climate Now

7 of the articles were commissioned works of public interest journalism funded by donors
We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the country where we live, work and travel upon, and to Elders, past, present and future.

Authors

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Cate Carrigan
Kellie Caught
Climate and Health Alliance
Dr Amy Coopes
Ana Porta Cubas
Dr Henry Cutler
Professor Megan Davis
Jennifer Doggett
Linda Doherty
Professor Maureen F. Dollard
Professor Stephen Duckett
Emergency Leaders for Climate Action
Dr Matt Fisher
Professor Bronwyn Fredericks
Dr Toby Freeman
El Gibbs
Professor Melissa Haswell
Professor Ian Hickie
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Professor Rebecca Ivers
Jane Martin
Marie McInerney
Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed
Adjunct Assistant Professor Patrick Mullins
Charles Maskell-Knight
Dr Denis Muller
Donna Murray

Rus Nasir
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Dr Gabrielle O’Kane
Associate Professor Yvonne Parry
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Dr Sebastian Rosenberg
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Dr Tess Ryan
Dr Sophie Scamps
Professor Anthony Scott
Krystian Seibert
Emeritus Professor David Shearman
Dr Clare Skinner
Adjunct Professor Terry Slevin
Warren Snowdon
Dr Melissa Sweet
Emeritus Professor Hal Swerissen
Dr Peter Tait
Dr Peter Thomas
Gemma Tuxworth
Alison Verhoeven
Associate Professor Alexandra Wake
Professor John Wakerman
Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward
Michael Ward
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Leanne Wells
Professor Jill White
Scott Willis
Dr Tim Woodruff
Kylie Woolcock
Dr Yuejen Zhao

We thank and acknowledge

Mitchell Ward for graphics and design

The Conversation, John Menadue’s Pearls & Irritations for cross-publication of your articles

Dr Anny Huang and H. Clare Callow for volunteering to help our election coverage
### 3. TWITTER ACTIVITIES

Curated Twitter storm - #AusVotesHealth2022

9/2/2022-7/6/2022 – report by Tweetbinder

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<th>Economic value</th>
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<td>Contributors</td>
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<td>Potential impacts</td>
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<td>Potential reach</td>
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**Contributor Rankings**

#### Most Active

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<td>@MelissaSweetDr</td>
<td>851</td>
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<tr>
<td>@CroakeyNews</td>
<td>340</td>
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<tr>
<td>@PHAA</td>
<td>122</td>
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<tr>
<td>@RussellWolfe</td>
<td>111</td>
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<tr>
<td>@AlisonSB Barrett</td>
<td>92</td>
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#### Retweeters

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<tr>
<td>@MelissaSweetDr</td>
<td>507</td>
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<td>@JulieShawqi</td>
<td>71</td>
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<tr>
<td>@MorneColemanAO</td>
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<td>@CroakeyServices</td>
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#### Original Tweets

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<td>@RussellWolfe</td>
<td>80</td>
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<td>@BronFredericks</td>
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#### Most Popular

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<th>Username</th>
<th>Followers</th>
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<td>@lingle</td>
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<td>@NormOrnstein</td>
<td>215,477</td>
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<tr>
<td>@Freyas_cole</td>
<td>200,456</td>
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<tr>
<td>@ConversationEDU</td>
<td>155,691</td>
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<td>@normanswan</td>
<td>173,478</td>
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#### Highest Impact

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<th>Impacts</th>
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<td>@MelissaSweetDr</td>
<td>24,932,080</td>
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<td>@CroakeyNews</td>
<td>8,894,547</td>
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<td>@PHAA</td>
<td>2,664,002</td>
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<td>@BronFredericks</td>
<td>724,349</td>
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<td>@BronFredericks</td>
<td>709,702</td>
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#### Top Photographer

<table>
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<th>Username</th>
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<tr>
<td>@PHAA</td>
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<tr>
<td>@MelissaSweetDr</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@JodieAgeGap</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@BronFredericks</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@mariealdenhearn</td>
<td>11</td>
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We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the country where we live, work and travel upon, and to Elders, past, present and future.

Read full report: https://dash.tweetbinder.com/report/9f4209b8

Follow these Twitter lists
The #AusVotesHealth2022 Twitter list
The Albanese Ministry Twitter list
The Twitter list of cross bench MPs
The Shadow Ministry Twitter list
4. CROAKEY EVENTS

Croakey held five election webinars to provide a platform for collaborative discussions, journalism and impact.

4 November 2021: Invitation to brainstorm

26 April 2022: Climate, health and the election

Dr Norman Swan
Professor Megan Williams
Rikki Dank
Dr Veronica Matthews
Associate Professor Ying Zhang
Dr Sophie Scamps

1 May 2022: Health policy

Associate Professor Lesley Russell

8 May 2022: Focus on rural health

Dr Saba Nabi

15 May 2022: Health, justice and the media

Adjunct Professor Alison Verhoeven
Cheryl Axleby
Dr Clare Skinner
Misha Ketchell

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