

Connecting young scientists and data users



The responsibility for developing and applying new scientific knowledge to inform adaptation and climate-related risk management policy and planning will increasingly fall on the shoulders of future generations of scientists and decision-makers within government and the private sector.

The Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub established a Young Professionals Network to support both early career climate science researchers and sector-based young professionals to develop technical capacity to deliver and apply climate change science, and to enhance links within and between these two key groups.

New professional relationships are being created through this network which will facilitate ongoing engagements and relationships that will be advantageous in the process of addressing long-term climate risks for Australia.

What's new?

With the ever-increasing reality of direct impacts from climate change on Australia's people, resources and infrastructure comes a heightened national need to better manage long-term climate risks. Many of these risks will play out over long (multi-decadal) timescales, and so the responsibility for developing and applying new scientific knowledge to inform adaptation and climate-related disaster risk management policy and planning will increasingly fall on the shoulders of future generations of scientists and decision-makers within government and the private sector.

Recognising the important role that today's young scientists and sector-based professionals will play in identifying and managing current and future climate-related risk, the Hub established a Young Professionals (YP) Network to develop capacity and facilitate networking and awareness raising between these two groups.

This initiative was conceived and implemented by the Hub Stakeholder Advisory Group, which helps ensure the relevance of the Hub's research to the wider community.



How does it work?

The YP Network currently comprises of early career researchers (approx. 3–5 years' experience), including PhD students and post-docs, and young (approx. <40 years of age) sector professionals, with an initial focus on the banking, finance and insurance sectors. The network consists of representatives drawn from Hub partner organisations (representing the main climate research institutions in Australia), other NESP hubs and from private and public organisations from across the Australian economy and political landscape. The network members form part of the science/services-based climate change knowledge value chain.

The YP Network comes together at organised 'climathon' events hosted by the Hub's sectoral collaborators. These dynamic events are delivered around problem-solving exercises based on hypothetical, business-related climate change scenarios. The events are designed to provide a creative space for innovative problem solving, with an emphasis on what climate change science can do rather than what it can't when it comes to informing financial-based risk assessment, management and associated decision-making in the private sector. Potential 'solutions' and issues raised in these events are expected to feature in the Hub's strategic planning and prioritisation for future research.

Who benefits?

Young sector-based professionals and early career researchers benefit from the opportunity to learn about the information needs and constraints involved in both the provision and use of climate change information and data. This understanding will not only enhance their ability to produce and apply climate change data and

information in their careers, but ensure that climate change science is used to effectively inform decisions, now and in the future. The benefits that flow on from the production of useful climate change information and its ready application to management decisions in the future will benefit everyone.



Some of the participants at a Young Professionals Network event held in partnership with the Actuaries Institute Young Actuaries Program.

The Young Professionals Network is an initiative led by the Hub Stakeholder Advisory Group, chaired by Dr Nick Wood. For more information contact:

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