

**From:** Nishani Nithianandan <web@greens.org.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 18 April 2019 12:21 PM  
**To:** recyclinginquiry  
**Subject:** Our health demands better recycling solutions

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

As a doctor, I regularly see the impacts of climate change on the health of communities and people. As a global citizen, I am alarmed at the effects on low-income countries, who are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and yet contribute the least damage. Increasing natural disasters, spread of vector borne diseases, increasing air pollution and respiratory illnesses, drought and crop failures, are all leading to loss of life and impaired physical and mental health.

I grew up in Victoria with recycling as a part of the landscape. The green and yellow bins were familiar and recycling was a way of life for all Australians. It is devastating therefore, to learn of our current recycling crisis, which is not sustainable. Our recycling system must be made more efficient and embrace innovative solutions, such as refunds on glass bottles, phasing out disposable plastics, composting, and mass media campaigns to encourage Australians to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Australians are concerned about climate change and what our future will look like. As our government, it is incumbent on you to invest in the recycling industry, climate change action and a healthy future for us all.

-- Nishani Nithianandan  
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I'm happy for my submission and details to be made public.