
ORYGEN STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE



Orygen acknowledges the scientific consensus regarding the existence of human-induced climate change and the substantial contribution the human population is making to this via greenhouse gas emissions and the continued destruction of natural environments around the world. Further, Orygen recognises that our planet is in a state of climate crisis, and as a result, a health emergency has been declared by many in the healthcare and scientific communities. Orygen also acknowledges that young people believe climate change is a serious problem, and that the majority are anxious or concerned about how it will impact their future.

Orygen recognises that the climate crisis disproportionately affects young people globally, including those on the frontlines of the crisis, as well as those who are part of communities experiencing marginalisation. These young people are also disproportionately affected by the consequential health emergency.

Orygen specifically acknowledges the unique connection to Country held by First Nations young people and their communities, and the impacts that the climate crisis has on their social and emotional wellbeing. Orygen recognises that colonisation and destruction of the natural environment have ongoing impacts on First Nations young people and communities around the world.

As an organisation dedicated to improving the mental health of young people, Orygen has an obligation to demonstrate leadership and accountability in relation to sustainability practices that protect our future generations from the physical and mental health emergency accompanying the climate crisis.

Orygen recognises that climate change and its impact on young people's mental health should be a global priority area for advocacy, research, policy and practice. Further information about Orygen's position on climate change and mental health can be accessed [here](#).

Orygen therefore make a commitment to:

- Showing leadership in the workplace and in its community by advocating climate justice consistent with the evidence of the impact of climate change on the mental health and wellbeing of young people.
- Supporting First Nations young people and their communities to maintain healthy connections to Country.
- Building strong relationships and partnerships with First Nations people and organisations to address the different and disproportionate impacts that climate change has on these populations, in line with Orygen's Statement of Commitment to the First Nations of Australia.
- Striving to elevate the voices of marginalised groups and prioritise those with less privilege when discussing and making decisions about climate justice.
- Reducing its carbon footprint (e.g. by reducing energy use and increasing energy efficiency, switching to renewable energy, reducing waste, reducing personal transport emissions, purchasing carbon offsets for electricity, gas use and transport including air travel, and monitoring the carbon footprint of suppliers).
- Setting, measuring and continually evaluating its performance against defined targets to constantly reduce its environmental footprint.

REVOLUTION IN MIND

- Incorporating considerations regarding the climate crisis into its decision-making processes. That is, when Orygen staff are making decisions, they will do so in a way that recognises whether they are increasing or decreasing our greenhouse gas emissions.
- Working to increase awareness of the threat that climate change poses to the mental health and wellbeing of young people and future generations; creating opportunities for behaviour change to reduce this threat; and, where possible, doing this in partnership with young people and mental health professionals.
- Striving to ensure that its financial investments are not contributing to the threat by divesting those investments from carbon intensive and environmentally, socially, and culturally destructive activities and industries.
- Conducting and/or advocating for high quality research into the current and future effects of climate change on mental health and wellbeing of young people.
- Taking the findings of existing research and translating these into policy and practice that will adequately and equitably protect young people and future generations from the dangers of climate crisis and health emergency.

The actions committed above were inspired by the Statement of Commitment originally developed by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) and the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) to garner support for protecting our children, young people, and future generations from climate change. Orygen acknowledges their leadership on climate action.