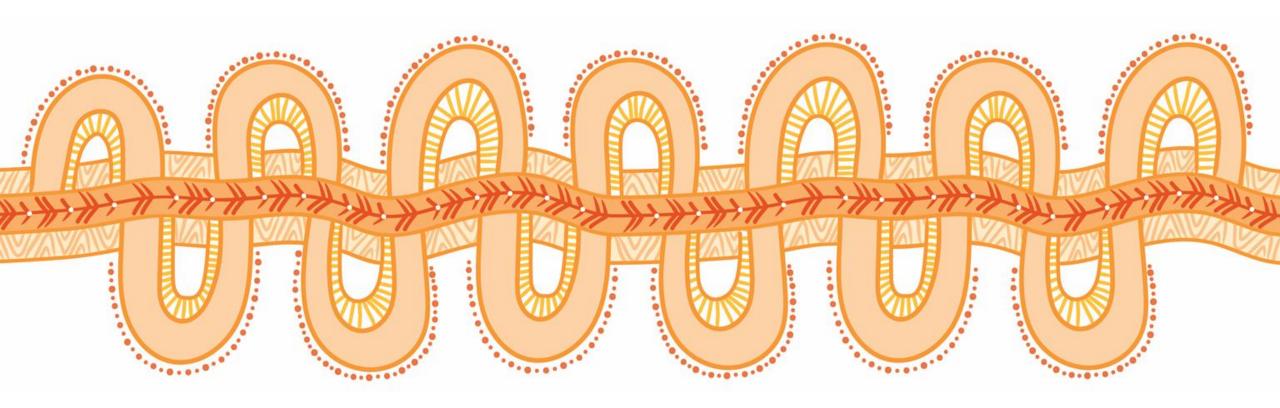
Climate distress

Chloe Watfern, Postdoctoral Fellow





Acknowledgement of Country

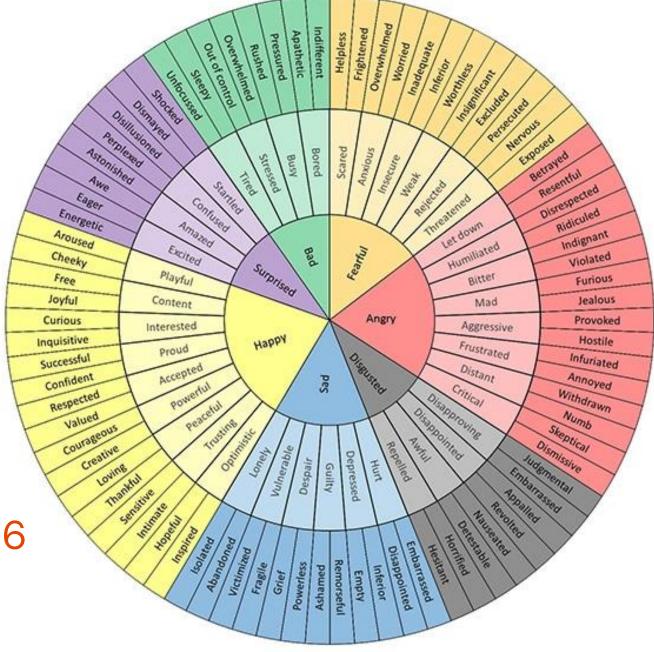




CHECK IN

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636













"A third consecutive La Niña contributed to severe rainfall and flooding across Eastern Australia."

"Australia's hottest temperature was recorded in the coastal town of Onslow, Western Australia."

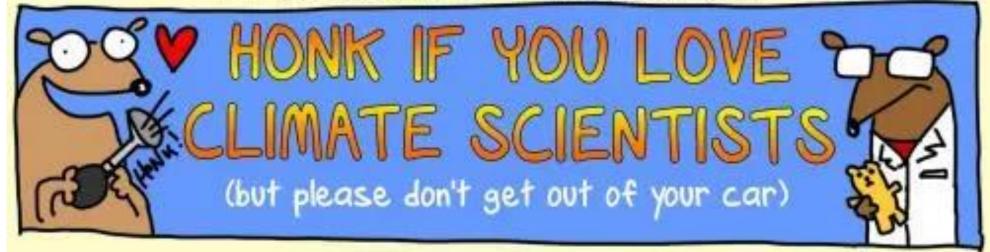
"Weather and climate extremes had disastrous impacts on socioeconomic systems."







IT'S THE TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HUG A CLIMATE SCIENTIST DAY! REMEMBER A DECADE AGO WHEN WE THOUGHT CLIMATE CHANGE WAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM?









How does climate change affect our mental health?







- Solastalgia: "the homesickness you have when you are home"
- Pre-traumatic stress disorder: intrusive visions of future trauma
- Ecological grief: "grief felt in relation to experienced or anticipated ecological losses"
- Climate anxiety: feelings of worry and concern about climate change

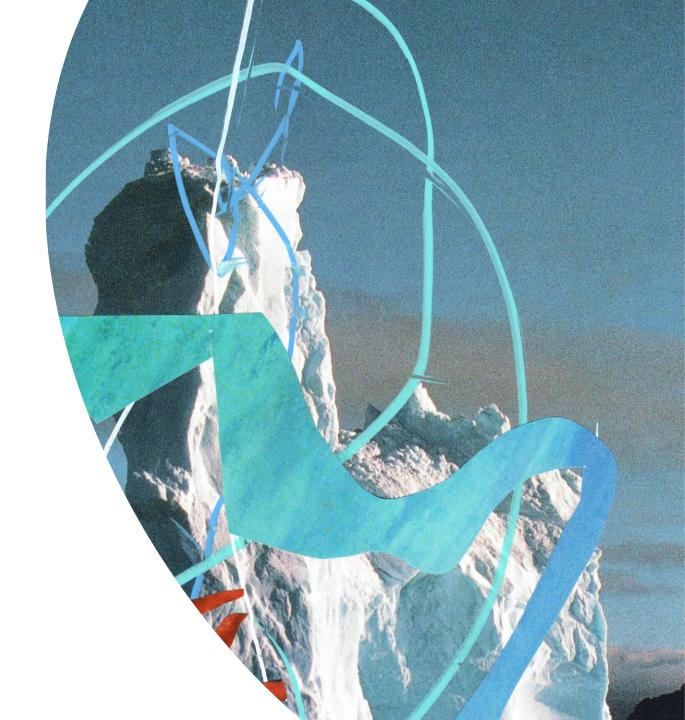
CLIMATE DISTRESS

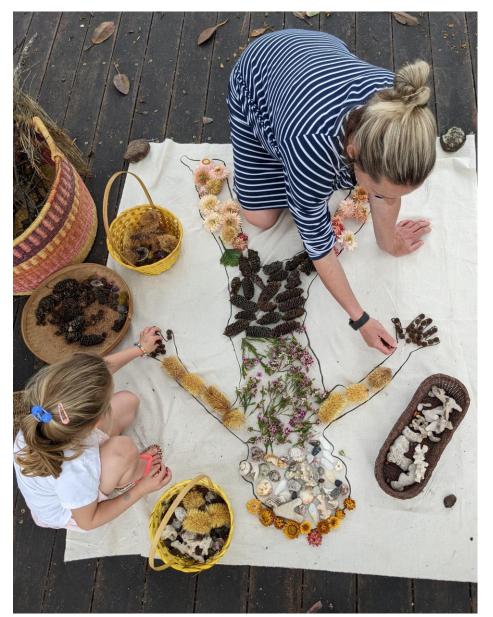


The surveys are in

- Global context: Over 80% of 16- to 25-year-olds worried about climate change (Hickman et al, 2021)
- 1 in 10 Australians experiencing clinically significant eco-anxiety (Patrick et al, 2022)
- 51% of Australians "very or fairly worried" about climate change and extreme weather events (Climate Council, 2023)



















Letters of thanks







Coping with climate distress









Emotion focused coping

Problem focused coping

Meaning focused coping











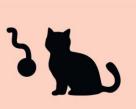






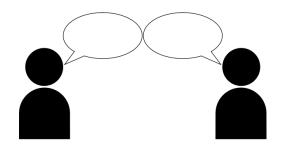




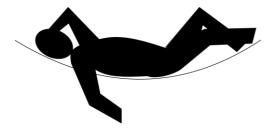




Coping with climate distress







Take a break



Take action



Drop the blame game







Group processes

Peer Led

- Climate Cafes
- Good Grief Network
- Active Hope (Work That Reconnects)

Mental health practitioner led

Psychology for a Safe Climate

Purpose

Cultivating meaning and active hope

Resilience

Practising self care and self compassion

Presence

Being with the uncertainty and discomfort of the climate reality

Emotions

Feeling and expressing our emotional response to the climate reality

Context

Acknowledging the impact of socio-political and environmental contexts

Connection

Witnessing and sharing our emotional responses with others



Active Hope

"Something we do rather than have" – Macy and Johnston

"Hope is not a lottery ticket you can sit on the sofa and clutch, feeling lucky. It is an axe you break down doors with in an emergency. " - Solnit





Communicating climate change











Psychology for a safe Climate



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