

# RMH Sustainability Report – Environmental and Social

FY 2020-21



**The Royal  
Melbourne  
Hospital**

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# Introduction

## About the Royal Melbourne Hospital

As one of Victoria's largest public health services, The Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH) provides a comprehensive range of specialist medical, surgical, and mental health services; as well as rehabilitation, aged care, outpatient and community programs. We are a designated state-wide provider for services including trauma, and we lead centres of excellence for tertiary services in several key specialties including neurosciences, nephrology, oncology, cardiology and virtual health.

In FY 2020-21, our staff provided care to over 600,000 patients at RMH with over 80,000 emergency department attendances and more than 240,000 outpatient appointments. RMH employs over 10,000 staff and manages more than 1,400 beds.

The on-going COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our environmental performance this Financial Year, especially in the generation of clinical waste. Infection prevention practices generate large amounts of personal protective equipment (PPE) waste and these single use items are disposed of as clinical waste. Reduced operating hours of our co-generation plant have also impacted emission reduction targets.

This report highlights some of our environmental and social procurement achievements in FY 2020-21 and reports our consumption data in line with Department of Health and Human Services reporting guidelines.

## RMH Strategic Plan: Towards 2025

The RMH Strategic Plan, Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Social Procurement Strategy set common goals to strive for sustainability. We are ready to face the challenges of the future, working towards environmental and financial sustainability.

The RMH has made significant reductions in waste and resource consumption but recognises that a more focussed organisational commitment to environmental sustainability is needed. The RMH Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2020-25 sets targets focusing on organisational leadership, emission reductions, waste minimisation and paper use reductions.

The RMH Social Procurement Strategy has been developed in response to the Victorian Government's Social Procurement Framework and demonstrates an increased priority for delivering benefits to Victorian communities through procurement.

Our key Social Procurement Framework (SPF) priorities for FY 2021/22 to FY2023/24 are to create and/or promote:

1. Environmentally sustainable business practices;
2. Sustainable Victorian social enterprise and Aboriginal business sectors; and
3. Implementation of the Climate Change Policy Objectives.

# Achievements FY 2020-21

Whilst the RMH's, like all health services', operations have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, progress has been made towards achieving our environmental sustainability targets by 2025.

This year's highlights include:

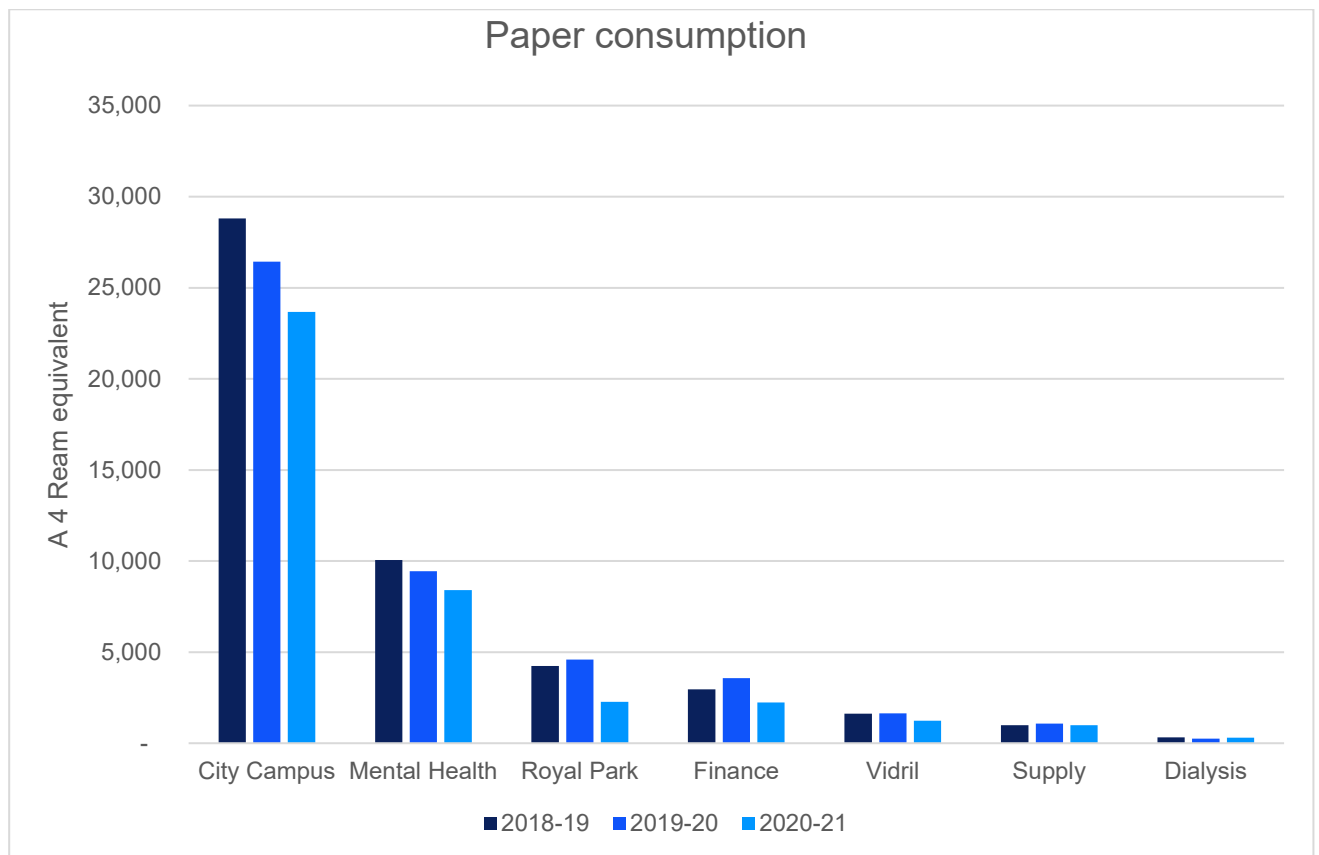
- Reduction in paper consumption;
- Energy use and emissions reductions;
- Greening the RMH Home Lottery;
- Victorian Social Enterprises and Aboriginal Businesses engagement; and
- Introduction of drug disposal bins.

# Highlights

## Paper Consumption

Paper usage reduction is one of our strategic targets and this year we are pleased to report significant reductions in the usage of both office paper and Allanby medical forms. Office paper has seen a reduction of 17 per cent across the RMH, while the top 15 most used medical forms show a reduction of 49 per cent over the previous year.

The implementation of digital initiatives including the introduction of the Parkville electronic medical record (EMR) and Computer Assisted Facilities Management (CAFM) have helped to achieve these results. Changes to work practices such as increased use of electronic devices, the new Board portal and online orientation materials and recruitment on-boarding requirements have also reduced paper consumption.

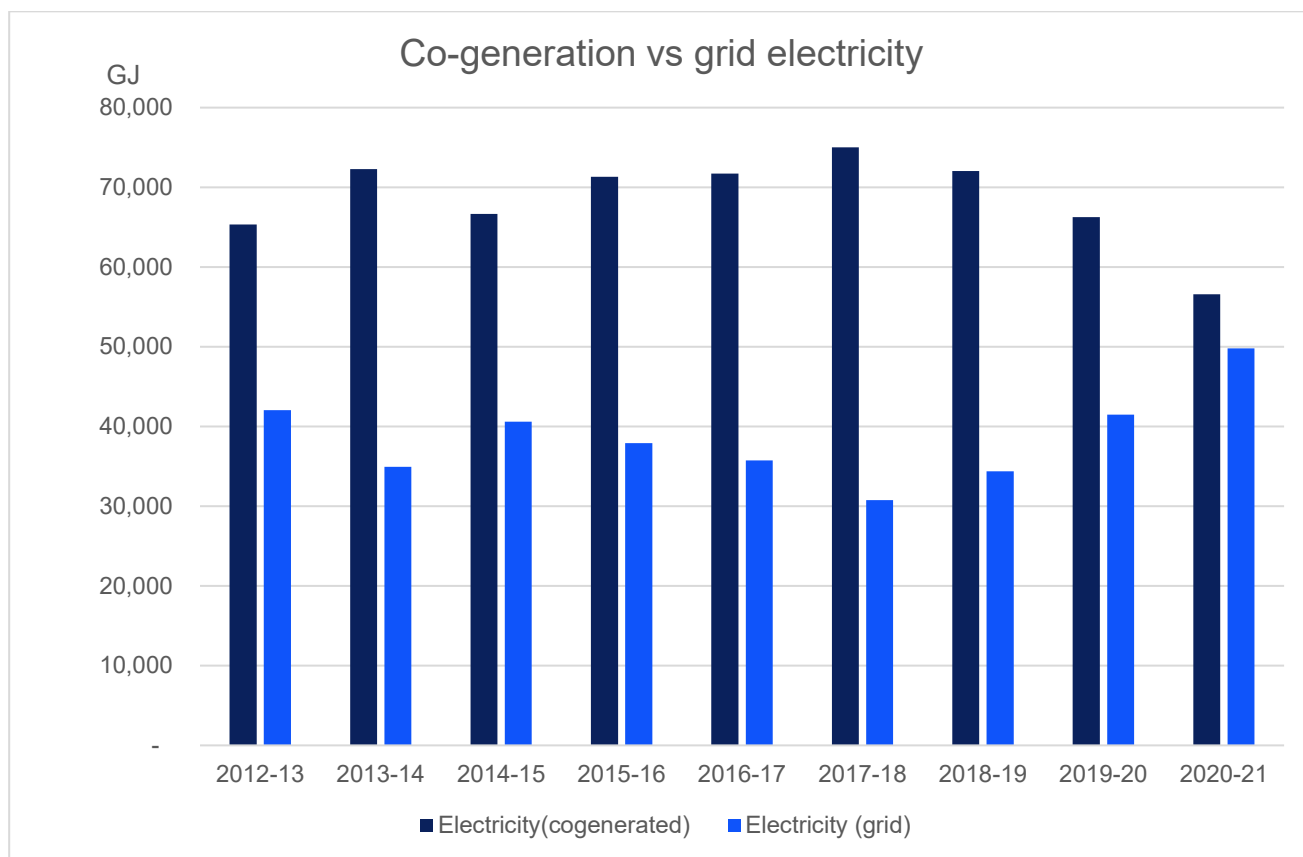


# Energy Use and Emission Reductions

As is shown in the RMH consumption data on page 11, electricity consumption remained relatively stable this financial year and steam consumption decreased significantly by 15 per cent over the previous year. Steam, a by-product of the gas fuelled co-generation plant at RMH City Campus, is being used for heating, hot water and sterilisation. Due to COVID-19, the operating hours for the RMH City Campus co-generation plant were reduced by the external plant operator, which resulted in a higher than usual proportion of electricity consumption from the grid.

The proportions of grid and co-generated energy used effects our emissions, as co-generated energy from gas is less emission intensive compared to electricity from brown coal. As can be seen in the graph below, the proportion of grid electricity is at its highest since 2012-13, climbing to an all-time high of 47 per cent. This has limited our emission reductions despite a significant decrease in energy use.

Overall our energy consumption decreased by 14 per cent and our emissions from energy use by 5 per cent over FY 2019-20.



# Greening the RMH Home Lottery

The Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation (RMH Foundation) seeks to improve the lives of the Victorian community by contributing urgently needed funding to the RMH. The RMH Foundation provides financial support in areas of patient care, including the purchase of life-saving medical equipment, and ensuring we can continue our world-class research, finding cures and improved treatment for many of Australia's biggest killers, including stroke, cancer and heart disease.

The RMH Foundation's Home Lottery is now contributing to our environmental sustainability and social procurement objectives. For the first time, this year's prizes include electric and hybrid cars, electric bikes and scooters, and a more sustainable grand prize home.

Our partner Mazzei are aligned to our organisational objectives in regard to social procurement and sustainability. The work that Mazzei have undertaken and are committed to will assist the RMH in meeting objectives and targets when reporting on the following:

- Environmentally sustainable business practice;
- Sustainable Victorian social enterprise and Aboriginal business sectors; and
- Implementation of the Climate Change Policy Objectives.

Evidence of this has been documented and witnessed through Mazzei's commitment as follows:

- Commitment to Victoria's Take2 pledge which is Australia's first state government-led pledge initiative and one of the most comprehensive climate change programs in the world;
- Installation of rain tanks and solar power as standard for the grand prize homes, commitment to install electric vehicle charging points;
- Mazzei's pledge to become carbon neutral by 2023;
- Development of a Reconciliation Action Plan;
- Supply relationships with Kinaway and Supply Nation to source Aboriginal enterprises to provide services in building site services, construction, fit-out and design; and
- Adoption of original Aboriginal art into the home and furnishings.



# Victorian Social Enterprises and Aboriginal Businesses

The RMH has agreed to invest and purchase from Victorian Social Enterprises and Aboriginal businesses as one of its key social procurement objectives in FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24. In FY 2020-21, the RMH had spent \$8.4M across 51 social enterprises and Aboriginal businesses. The majority of this spend arises from our engagement with social enterprises, including Universities and similar institutions.

Social procurement objectives have also been incorporated into the RMH's standard procurement processes. This includes applying a weighted criteria up to 10% for social procurement objectives as well as its inclusion during negotiations. A key achievement in FY 2020-21 has been the partnership established with Mazzei builder, with a strong commitment to implement a genuine reconciliation action plan, investment into Aboriginal businesses by utilising Kinaway and Supply Nation, as well as direct investment into Aboriginal artwork from Aboriginal businesses.

The RMH will continue to explore opportunities to have a direct impact on social Enterprises and Aboriginal businesses, by engaging with certified suppliers listed with Kinaway and Supply Nation in the FY 2021/22. We will also continue to pursue opportunities to realise indirect benefits by influencing our suppliers and providers to increase its investment into social enterprises and Aboriginal businesses.

## Medicine Disposal Bins

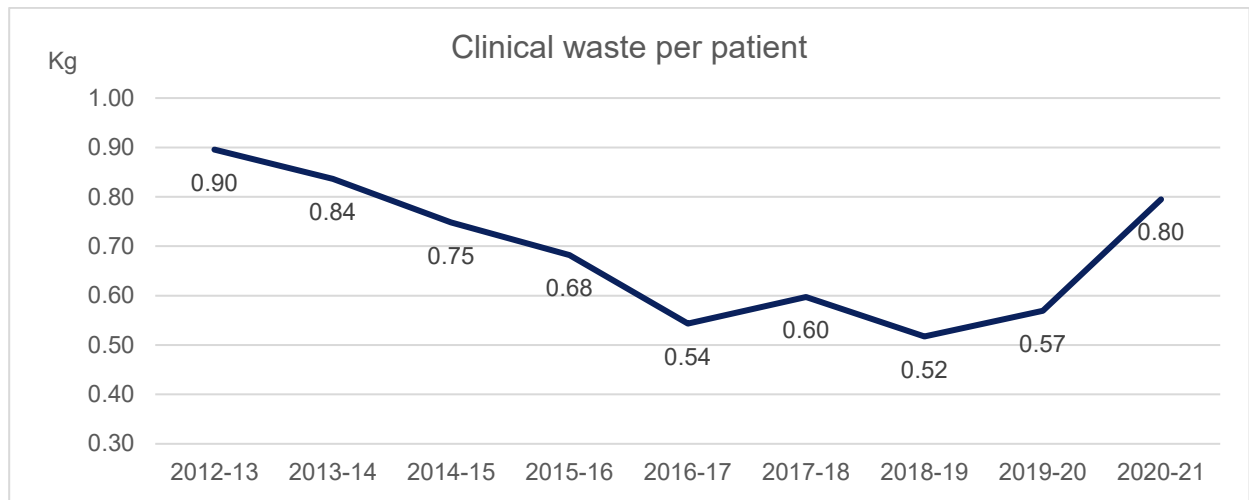
All health services have a responsibility to safely dispose of unused, unwanted or expired medications. In order to ensure that the drugs the RMH disposes of do not harm the environment and are disposed of safely we introduced dedicated bins in all drug rooms and in theatres in 2020. Unwanted medicines are now collected in two types of drug waste bins and incinerated by our waste management provider, ensuring water ways are not polluted by unwanted drugs.





# Clinical Waste

This financial year our clinical waste generation has risen significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The increase in infectious waste and increased use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to keep our staff safe, has had a material impact on previous clinical waste reductions. Overall waste generation has remained stable, but more general waste has been disposed into clinical waste to comply with infection prevention procedures.



# RMH Consumption Data

## Overview

In FY 2020-21, overall energy use has decreased over previous years. Emissions have also decreased but at a less significant rate, due to a larger proportion of electricity supplied by the grid instead of our co-generation plant.

Water consumption is much lower than in previous years, partially attributable to a reduction in steam consumption.

Total waste generation has remained stable, however the proportion of clinical waste has increased dramatically due to infection prevention procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Normalising Factors

Normalising factors refer to indicators that are used to compare environmental performance over time and to allow for any changes in service delivery. These factors are used throughout this report.

### **Occupied bed days**

The number of in-patient bed days for the reporting period.

### **Separations**

The number of separations for the reporting period.

### **Patients treated**

The number of in-patient bed days, the number of emergency presentations and the number of out-patients for the reporting period.

### **Floor area**

Metre squared of floor space, excluding car parks.

### **Recycling rate**

The recycling rate is the total weight of recycled material divided by the sum of the total weight of general waste and recycled material.

<b>NORMALISING FACTORS</b>	<b>BASELINE</b>	<b>FY 2019-20</b>	<b>FY 2020-21</b>	<b>% CHANGE OVER 2019-20</b>
Occupied bed days	322,522	325,502	301,299	(7.4%)
Separations	102,180	104,517	99,886	(4.4%)
Patients treated	596,222	623,700	625,108	0.2%
Floor area m <sup>2</sup>	155,156	153,194	153,194	0.0%
<b>TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY ENERGY TYPE (GJ)</b>				
Electricity (Grid)	47,024	53,654	60,310	12.4%
Electricity (Co-generated)	72,927	66,275	56,603	(14.6%)
Natural gas and LPG	17,261	16,101	14,054	(12.7%)
Other energy types (e.g. steam, diesel)	82,839	106,895	78,907	(26.2%)
Total energy (GJ)	220,051	242,926	209,874	(13.6%)
Energy per unit of floor space (GJ/m <sup>2</sup> )	1.418	1.586	1.370	(13.6%)
<b>GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (TONNES CO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>				
Scope 1	5,150	6,327	4,794	(24.2%)
Scope 2	26,970	28,144	28,210	0.2%
Total	32,120	34,472	33,004	(4.3%)
Emissions per unit of floor space (kgCO <sub>2</sub> e/m <sup>2</sup> )	207	225	215	(4.3%)
Emissions per patient treated (kgCO <sub>2</sub> e)	54	55	53	(4.5%)
<b>TOTAL WATER CONSUMPTION BY TYPE (KL)</b>				
Potable water	197,655	189,233	167,179	(11.7%)
Water per patient treated (kL)	0.332	0.303	0.267	(11.9%)
<b>WASTE GENERATION BY TYPE (TONNES)</b>				
Clinical waste	329	355	497	40%
General waste	1,352	1,158	1,071	(7.5%)
Recycled waste	628	852	801	(6.0%)
Total	2,309	2,365	2,369	0.2%
Waste recycling rate (per cent)	32%	42%	43%	0.9%
Waste per patient treated (kg)	3.9	3.8	3.8	(0.1%)

The baseline was established by averaging the consumption data of FY 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. Scope 1 GHG emissions (direct emissions) are emissions released to the atmosphere as a direct result of an activity at a facility. Scope 2 GHG emissions (indirect emissions) are emissions released to the atmosphere from the consumption of energy produced by another facility.

# Glossary

## Report Boundaries

The consumption data in this report reflects environmental performance at the RMH City Campus and the RMH Royal Park Campus sites.

A full set of accurate consumption data is not available for other Melbourne Health sites, as some sites are either co-located within other organisations or utility costs are charged as a flat rate under lease agreements and metering is unavailable.

## Acknowledgements

Data presented in this report was provided by suppliers, contractors, utility invoices, sub-metering and the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services.



The Royal  
Melbourne  
Hospital

# Advancing health for everyone, every day

300 Grattan Street  
Parkville VIC 3050 Australia

[thermh.org.au](http://thermh.org.au)

ABN 73 802 706 972

PREPARED BY: Monika Page  
T: +61 3 9342 4624  
E: [Monika.Page@mh.org.au](mailto:Monika.Page@mh.org.au)

