

Oceania Expert Group Meeting in preparation for the 30th anniversary
of the International Year of Family, 2024

**The Intertwined Impact of Technological Transformation and Climate Change
on Families in Oceania: Navigating the Policy Response**

Brisbane, Australia, 30-31 May 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy design

Promote open public dialogue and collaboration in the design of family policies involving all stakeholders, such as civil society organisations, academic institutions, private sector and families themselves.

Use life cycle approach to policy design.

Fund collaborative, community-led and locally based policy development initiatives.

Prioritize and fund policy development from inception, through implementation and evaluation.

Acknowledge and support the collective experience of families and communities impacted by climate change in policy design and practice.

First Nations

Ensure that climate change and technological transformation research, policy and practice for Oceania, its diverse family structures, support systems, and underlying social and economic values and context are recognized and valued.

Embrace First Nations communities and knowledges, remiss of extractive process, through culture hubs by all organisations, local governments, agencies and communities to contribute their ways to address climate change and matters of international concern.

Promote generative co-design frameworks used to develop and maintain regenerative kin-based and long-term approaches to climate change resilience developed collectively using responsible ethical technological innovations.

Facilitate opportunities for First Nations communities to use their lands to create economic opportunities in renewable energies; to be represented in frameworks and policies on climate change and any projects impacting them.

Engage in an array of cultural groups as agentic partners when designing and implementing policy and practical interventions to support digital inclusion/digitalization, including tailored advisory groups of key cohorts in the local community and wider consultations for key interacting domains or allocation of funding to cultural hubs.

Create legislation to regulate the level of cultural validation that is required for tech companies to have completed all stages of design and development, before wider adoption rollout in Oceania context.

Family supports

Provide evidence-based support to all parents and carers that is accessible and culturally acceptable, and free of gender stereotypes to help in teaching children about technology, digital spaces, media and climate change; and to assist parents in advocating for climate change action in their communities.

Create supportive communities that assist people of all ages to engage safely with digital technologies by providing evidence-based education and opportunities for cross-generational learning.

Provide financial support to extend the research evidence around families and technology to ensure solutions are up to date considering the rapidly shifting environment in which parents are raising their children.

Climate change and families

Enable/empower families as educators, consumers and advocates for climate change.

Promote incentives to reduce overall waste and use energy efficient devices to reduce electricity consumption.

Facilitate environment-friendly initiatives, such as family backyard, school and community gardens.

Promote social protection systems targeting families in vulnerable situations like those living in areas susceptible to climate change induced natural disasters.

Attend to eco-anxiety through awareness raising and education campaigns that target families, offering more than individual mental health support, prioritizing services for families and programmes promoting social cohesion through climate action.

Intergenerational relations

Invest in education for empathy, intergenerational transmission of cultural values and human relations.

Promote intergenerational solidarity through family policies targeting extended families.

Education and climate change awareness raising

Develop effective educational programmes around climate change that engage children, parents, community groups with an interdisciplinary and inter professional approach.

Run social media campaigns to educate all generations about benefits of green approach towards climate change.

Embed media literacy in national policy by creating a national strategy for media literacy.

Technology & media use

Invest in local social infrastructure to support delivery of place-based digital literacy programmes for parents to improve their skills and to help support their children's learning.

Support the digital inclusion of families through the provision of devices directly to low-income families and the organisations that support them via circular economy models.

Promote digital literacy leading to inclusive digital education including adaptations of current strategies to the needs of marginalized populations.

Support public institutions, including libraries and museums to create programmes and opportunities to develop parents' and children's media literacies.

Support organisations, schools and agencies to advance the media literacy of children and adults.

Support telecommunications infrastructure, especially in remote areas prone to natural disaster and climate change.

Implement measures to prevent bias in AI systems that could lead to discriminatory practices.

Adopt transparent measures concerning AI and its impact on labour markets.

Promote digital equity and women's participation in digital labour market.

Recognise and address directly the commercial determinants of health and wellbeing in digital cultures and societies.

Set limits on some categories of advertising (e.g., alcohol, gambling) as well as those promoting fossil fuels extraction and use, including in consumers' personalized feeds on social media.

Mandate standards for public observability of advertising and other information of public interest on digital platforms, which must address both digital content and the automated models that target and recommend such content.

Urban design & circular economy

Promote the green urban multifunctional design to ensure sustainable buildings with shared facilities bringing generations together.

Promote legislation favoring circular economy.

Research

Promote research on climate change and how it relates to families, including its impact on physical and mental health, as well as effective ways to support parents, carers and children.

Promote investments in national funding agencies, technology companies and university to invest in high quality media literacy research to address climate change and misinformation.

Support funding for research led by Indigenous Peoples.