



## Groote Schuur Hospital (GSH) to host Environmental Fair on Friday 7 September 2018

Groote Schuur Hospital (GSH) will be hosting an Environmental Fair for staff, students and members of the public on Friday 7 September from 10-13h00 in the Klein Schuur venue. There will be guest speakers, short environmental videos, and an expo featuring environmental organisations and products.

The purpose of the Fair is to encourage healthy and sustainable lifestyles and to promote the green initiatives at GSH, which is a member of the Global Green and Healthy Hospital Network or GGHH<sup>1</sup>. The idea is motivated by four important global environmental events: World Environment Day on June 8 2018<sup>2</sup>, the Global Climate Action Summit from 2-14. September<sup>3</sup>, International Coastal Clean-Up Day on 16 September<sup>4</sup>, and World Environmental Health Day on 26 September<sup>5</sup>. These events focus global attention on the growing threats to health and wellbeing of plastic pollution, climate change, and food insecurity.

The guest speakers are:

- Ms. Hayley McLellan an environmental campaigner of the **Rethink the Bag campaign** at the **Two Oceans Aquarium**<sup>6</sup>. Hayley will give a challenging talk ("*Let's talk trash*") on the devastating impact of plastic pollution on the ocean.
- Mr. Thorpe Koorts who will talk about what "**green**" hospitals are doing to minimise their environmental footprint, and why this is important for our health
- Dr. Laura Angeletti-Du Toit will talk about **green and sustainable health facilities** and how to create them.

The expo will feature exhibitors who are working to promote a **world free of single-use plastic, such as drinking straws, plastic bags, balloons and plastic packaging**. These items are usually discarded very quickly into the environment, where they remain for a very long time and may ultimately enter our food chain. Apart from that plastic acts as an endocrine disruptor and affects our health.

All are welcome to join us in making a difference to the health of our planet and the wellbeing of future generations.

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James Irlam (UCT Primary Health Care Directorate & Division of Environmental Health)

<sup>1</sup> GGHH <https://noharm-global.org/issues/global/global-green-and-healthy-hospitals>

<sup>2</sup> World Environment Day [http://www.wwf.org.za/our\\_news/news/?24881/Beat-plastic-pollution-for-World-Environment-Day-2018](http://www.wwf.org.za/our_news/news/?24881/Beat-plastic-pollution-for-World-Environment-Day-2018)

<sup>3</sup> Global Climate Action Summit <https://globalclimateactions summit.org/>

<sup>4</sup> International Coastal Cleanup <https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/international-coastal-cleanup/>

<sup>5</sup> World Environmental Health Day <https://www.ifeh.org/wehd/>

<sup>6</sup> Two Oceans Aquarium- Rethink the Bag [www.aquarium.co.za](http://www.aquarium.co.za)