Climate change and children’s mental health – A developmental perspective

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TABLE S1: Exposure to severe weather events and its impact on psychological health and wellbeing

| Item                                                                 | Scoring                                                                 | Derivation                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| “Were you affected in any way by a weather-related disaster (e.g., flood, wildfire, storm, cyclone) in the past 12 months?” | Response on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is not at all and 10 is very severely | Berry, Adapted from the HILDA survey and O’Donnell (2008)                 |
| “In the last 12 months, did a weather-related disaster (e.g., flood, wildfire, storm, cyclone) severely damage or destroy:  | For each item endorsed, ask:                                             | Berry, Adapted from O’Donnell (2008)                                      |
| (a) your home?                                                        | • On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is not at all and 10 is very severely, how badly were you affected by [your suburb etc] being flooded? |                                                                           |
| (b) your suburb or local area?                                        |                                                                        |                                                                           |
| (c) the home of a family member or friend?                            |                                                                        |                                                                           |
| “Did any of the following happen as a result of this weather-related disaster?” | If item (a) endorsed, ask:                                              | Berry, Adapted from O’Donnell (2008)                                      |
| YES                                                                 | • How often are you worried about how you will manage?                  | “You felt terrified, helpless or hopeless” (Consistent with diagnostic criteria (A2) for PTSD (DSMIV) and ICD entry criteria). |
| NO                                                                  | 5-point scale ranging from 1= ‘none of the time’ to 5= ‘all of the time’ | “You are still currently distressed about it” (Allows calculation of point prevalence of post-disaster distress and differentiation from other possible causes of anxiety; can be validated against related constructs measured in the cohort. This item provides insight into whether the validated anxiety item is directly related to the traumatic event). |
| (a) You are worried about how you will manage                         |                                                                        |                                                                           |
| (b) You thought you might be badly injured or even die                |                                                                        |                                                                           |
| (c) You personally knew people who were killed or badly injured       |                                                                        |                                                                           |
| (d) You felt terrified, helpless or hopeless                          |                                                                        |                                                                           |
| (e) You had to move out of your home (even briefly)                   |                                                                        |                                                                           |
| (f) You are still currently distressed about it                        |                                                                        |                                                                           |
| (g) You received professional help or support for your distress       |                                                                        |                                                                           |
| “Were you or a close family member admitted to hospital due to injuries caused by the severe weather event?” | Yes – you=2, family=1, no=0 | Berry, Adapted from O’Donnell (2008)                                      |