

Stonnington Leader, Vic, 20/10/09

## Getting a grasp on global views

**Environment | Ainsleigh Sheridan**  
ORDINARY people had an extraordinary chance to contribute to global climate talks in September.

Malvern East student Zoe Rouhard, 18, was one of 100 randomly selected Australians invited to join the global project World Wide Views, a simultaneous series of citizens' deliberations across 38 countries.

The world-first dialogue was convened in Sydney by the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology in the lead-up to COP15, the Copenhagen cli-

mate negotiations this December.

Ms Rouhard, who studies health science at Deakin University, said she had a basic understanding of climate change before the event.

"I'd learned stuff at school and tried to do the right things: short showers, switching lights off... I thought everybody would know more than me, so I paid more attention to the news to try to get a better understanding," she said.

Conveners chose the group to reflect Australia's population diversity across age, gender, ethnicity and regions. The same 12 ques-

tions were put to the group as in all 38 countries, with facilitated discussion and votes on issues.

Ms Rouhard "really did get a sense of how global warming is affecting... drought, dust storms and crop failure, planting and harvesting with water restrictions".

Conveners will present the results of the global talks to world leaders at COP15. "Hopefully they'll take us into account... because it's a big issue that's going to affect everyone," she said.

► [Go to www.views.org.au](http://www.views.org.au) for results



Malvern East's Zoe Rouhard attended a simultaneous international conference on climate change