



news



HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENTS PROGRAM

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A Word from the Co-Directors

It has been another busy and productive quarter for the Healthy Built Environments Program. In July the 3rd World Planning Schools Congress was held in Perth and we contributed several papers to the Healthy Cities and Planning Stream. We were fortunate to have Professor Hugh Barton, Director of the UK's WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Cities and Urban Policy, lead a workshop on building strategic partnerships. Professor Barton also provided an international perspective on our bus tour of developments in Sydney that incorporate healthy built environment principles. The HBEP Literature Review has now been published and is available from our web site (see 'What's New on the HBEP Website?'). This is a significant research project which will inform much of the HBEP's future work. We are in the process of disseminating the Literature Review as widely as possible to researchers, policy makers and practitioners.

The Fortnightly Literature Review

The HBEP undertakes a fortnightly review of new research principally relating to the three key domains of healthy built environments as defined in our Literature Review: 'Getting People Active'; 'Connecting and Strengthening Communities' and 'Providing Healthy Food Options'. The following email alerts, websites and newsletters are checked for new research, key publications and significant initiatives:

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- Premier's Council for Active Living
- Australian Policy Online
- Department of Planning and Infrastructure
- Social Impacts Alert
- Healthy Community Design
- Healthy Parks Healthy People Central
- International Association of Public Transport
- Urban Affairs

Citations and web addresses for relevant articles and policy documents are provided in the Fortnightly Literature Review. Key words and a brief summary of the resource are also listed. You can download every Fortnightly Review from the HBEP website: <http://www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/cf/hbep/research/>.

Upcoming Events

Commercial Centre Walkability 'Walkshop'

The HBEP, in partnership with PCAL and the Heart Foundation, is organising a 'walkshop' on improving the walkability of commercial centres. Dr Rodney Tolley, Director of Walk21, will be our facilitator. This free seminar will take place at the University of NSW on November 3 from 1.00 – 5.00pm. Email the HBEP team if you are interested in attending: hbep@unsw.edu.au. Please note that places are limited.

The NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment (EPA) Act Review

The NSW Government has announced a comprehensive review of the planning legislation – the EPA Act (<http://planningreview.nsw.gov.au/Aboutthereview/tabid/87/Default.aspx>). The HBEP will be submitting relevant evidence for the inclusion of provisions in the revised Act to encourage healthy built environments. In partnership with PCAL, the HBEP is also consulting with key stakeholders on what healthy built environment issues they think need to be considered as part of the review.

New Resource: *Consumer Preferences for Healthy Development*

Creating Healthy Neighbourhoods – Consumer Preferences for Healthy Development

The Heart Foundation has released a brochure which reports the results of a Newspoll telephone survey about healthy neighbourhood features that influence people's decisions about where to live. The resource provides some basic guidance for the development industry on how new developments can appeal to the market demand for healthy neighbourhoods. It can be downloaded at: www.heartfoundation.org.au/driving-change/current-campaigns/local-campaigns/Pages/creating-healthy-neighbourhoods.aspx

New Publication: *Making Healthy Places*

A new book, *Making Healthy Places: Designing and building for health, well-being, and sustainability* published by Island Press in August 2011, provides an excellent overview of healthy built environment issues. Topics range from designing environments for physical activity to healthy homes, workplaces and the importance of green open spaces for physical and mental well-being. The HBEP Co-Directors authored the final chapter entitled 'Built Environments of the Future'. More information can be found at: <http://www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/cf/hbep/hbepnews/>.

New Research Report: *The Health Impacts of Housing*

A new research report entitled, *The Health Impacts of Housing: Toward a policy-relevant research agenda* has been published by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI). It is the outcome of a 2010 AHURI research grant awarded to Co-Director Thompson and Professor Peter Phibbs (University of Western Sydney Urban Research Centre). The Report includes the outcomes of the researchers' investigative panel involving Australasian health and housing researchers and policy makers. The report can be accessed from the HBEP website: <http://www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/cf/hbep/hbepnews/>.

What's New on the HBEP Website?

2011 HBEP Annual Forum Presentations: The presentations from the HBEP's Annual Forum are now available on the website (<http://www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/cf/hbep/education/>). They include rural and metropolitan case studies and a presentation on environmentally sustainable health care facilities.

HUDC Electronic Resource: The interactive online version of the Healthy Urban Development checklist is now available at: <http://www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/cf/hbep/resources/> (under 'Health – Other').

Healthy Built Environments: A review of the literature: The HBEP's Literature Review is available for download as one whole document (please note it is 11.8MB in size): [Click here](#). Individual sections of the Literature Review can also be downloaded: <http://www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/cf/hbep/publications/>.

New Planner September Column: The Co-Directors' latest column in the 'New Planner' journal is titled 'The Built Environment and Strengthening Communities: What's the evidence?'. It presents the latest research on this topic from the HBEP Literature Review. Click here to read the full article: <http://www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/cf/hbep/publications/> (under 'New Planner').

Living Well Together: This publication by researchers at The University of Western Australia investigates how companion animals can help strengthen social fabric. It is available at: <http://www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/cf/hbep/publications/> (under 'Other Useful Publications').

HBEP Stakeholder Consultation Research Report: This report presents the findings of stakeholder interviews about gaps in research and policy for supportive healthy built environments. It is available at: http://www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/cf/hbep/hbepnews/Attachments/Stakeholder_Full_Report_Final.pdf.

The HBEP website (<http://www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/cf/hbep/>) provides information on a range of local and international healthy built environment initiatives. We welcome suggestions for inclusions on the web site.

Supported by



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