



This is a quarterly newsletter designed to keep you updated about the ongoing work of **The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre Liveability Study**.

## Who are we?

The Liveability Study is housed at the CRE for Healthy, Liveable Communities at The McCaughey VicHealth Centre for Community Wellbeing, The University of Melbourne, and led by Prof Billie Giles-Corti. It is a collaboration between the Centre for the Built Environment and Health at The University of Western Australia, Queensland University of Technology, University of Western Sydney, and the University of Canberra. The team has expertise in public health, geography, urban planning, geomatics, and transport.

## PhD opportunities

The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre has 3 exciting full-time PhD scholarship opportunities available. For more information, email Jackie Stephenson at [jack.stephenson@saxinstitute.org.au](mailto:jack.stephenson@saxinstitute.org.au).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Antoinette Abou-Rizk for more information about the newsletter [aboa@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:aboa@unimelb.edu.au)

## The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre

The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre is a \$22.6M national initiative established in 2013. It aims to provide health decision-makers with the best evidence to inform their policies and programs, and to provide the evidence and tools for a comprehensive approach to preventing chronic health problems that includes working in the health system as well as in sectors outside of it, such as in schools, food production and retailing, and urban planning.

The Centre's Director, Prof Andrew Wilson, heads a team that includes many of Australia's internationally leading researchers in prevention, with 31 investigators from five states and territories and more than 20 universities, and government, non-government and private sector agencies. Funding has been provided by the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian National Preventive Health Agency, NSW Ministry of Health, ACT Health, the Hospitals Contribution Fund of Australia and the HCF Research Foundation. The Centre is administered by the Sax Institute and co-hosted by the Sax Institute and the Centre for Excellence in Intervention and Prevention Science.

## Liveability Project

The Liveability Study aims to develop and validate a national set of spatially derived built environment liveability indicators associated with chronic disease risk behaviours and health outcomes. This national set of indicators will enable comparison within and between cities, and monitoring of progress towards policies designed to create healthy and liveable communities.

## Recent activities

The Liveability Project was launched at a workshop held on 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at The University of Melbourne. Around 25 policy-makers, stakeholders, and researchers attended the first day, and on the second day 13 researchers across Australia planned the work program.

As a result of the stakeholder workshop, relevant urban planning policies are currently being reviewed by an urban planner, Ms Steph David. The scope of this work is to identify state/territory-level policies and planning guidelines in the ACT, NSW, QLD, VIC, WA for the following domains: food (University of Western Sydney), public open space (University of Western Australia), transport (QLD University of Technology), alcohol and walkability (University of Melbourne).

## Recent Publications

Giles-Corti B, Badland H, Mavoa S, Turrell G, Bull F, Boruff B, Pettit, Redman S, Bauman A, Hooper P, Villanueva K, Astell-Burt T, Feng X, Learnihan V, Davey R, Grenfell R, Thackway S. *Reconnecting urban planning with health: A protocol for the development and validation of national liveability indicators associated with non-communicable disease risk behaviours and health outcomes*. Public Health Research & Practice, 2014.