



## The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre: The National Liveability Study

This is a bi-annual newsletter designed to keep you updated about the ongoing work of **The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre: The National Liveability Study**. Please feel free to circulate through your networks.

### Opportunities

**Active Living Research (ALR) Annual Conference**, Florida, USA: 31 January - 3 February 2016

The ALR has two focus areas: research and practice/policy. Integrating two focus areas provides opportunities for knowledge exchange. The program will be comprised of approximately two-thirds research-oriented and one-third practice/policy-oriented presentations, with some overlap: <http://alr-conference.com/>

**State of Australian Cities National Conference**, Gold Coast, Australia: 9-11 December 2015

This conference is designed to foster productive dialogue between academic researchers, policy makers, and other urban practitioners. The 2015 conference has themes of: economy, social, environmental, urban structures, governance and movement, and cities and health: [www.soaconference.com.au](http://www.soaconference.com.au)

### Media Coverage

*'Food deserts': Grocery dead zones have serious health impacts for residents, experts say.* Dr Thomas Astell-Burt interviewed by Mark Colvin and Angela Lavoipierre, ABC News, 08 Jul 2015, [www.abc.net.au/news/2015-07-08/food-deserts-have-serious-consequences-for-residents-experts/6605230](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-07-08/food-deserts-have-serious-consequences-for-residents-experts/6605230)

### 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. More information is available at: <https://www.saxinstitute.org.au/our-work/preventing-chronic-disease/>

### The National Liveability Study

The Liveability Study aims to develop and validate a national set of spatially derived built environment liveability indicators that are associated with chronic disease risk behaviours and health outcomes. This national set of spatial indicators will enable comparison within and between cities of some of the determinants of health, and monitoring of progress towards policies designed to create healthy and liveable communities. This program of work will be completed over the next two years, and focuses on:

- Alcohol access
- Food access
- Public open space access and quantity
- Public transport access and availability
- Walkability

### Recent Activities

#### ***The National Liveability Study Stakeholder and Academic Workshop - 13 May 2015***

Approximately 50 researchers, practitioners and policy-makers explored how indicators developed through the National Liveability Study could be used to inform urban planning practice. Potential applications of the tools were workshopped, with the value of evidence-informed spatial data identified.

Prof Larry Frank, Director of the University of British Columbia Health and Community Design Lab, attended the workshop and provided valuable feedback. His visit to Melbourne included a presentation at the NHMRC CRE in Healthy, Liveable Communities Annual Meeting entitled "Built Environment and Chronic disease: Is there any evidence?"

#### ***Distribution of Liveability Data through AURIN***

The Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN) has agreed to fund a pilot of a Liveability Indicator tool, which would facilitate the distribution of the liveability indicator data. This project will commence in early 2016 and will assist us in informing the TAPPC National Liveability Study about how the national spatial data could be distributed at the completion of the study. More information about AURIN can be found at: <http://aurin.org.au/>



## Recent Presentations

Boruff B, Badland H, Mavoa S, Turrell G, Bull F, Pettit C, Redman S, Bauman A, Hooper P, Villanueva K, Astell-Burt T, Feng X, Learnihan V, Collett J, Hurni A, Thackway S, Miller J, Giles-Corti B. The development and validation of national liveability indicators: linking geography, urban policy, chronic disease risk factors and health outcomes in Australia. *Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) 2015 Conference, Canberra, 1-3 July 2015.*

Badland, H. Reconnecting urban planning with health: An overview of the National Liveability Study. *Sax Institute Governance Board, Sydney, 25 June 2015.*



Feng X, Astell-Burt T, David S, Mavoa S, Eagleson S, Murphy MF, Badland H, Giles-Corti B. Beyond 'food deserts'? Measuring local food environments in Australian cities. *14th International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity, Edinburgh, 3-6 June 2015.*

Giles-Corti B, Mavoa S, Hooper P, Villanueva K, Boruff B, Astell-Burt T, Learnihan V, Badland H. Are 'liveable' communities associated with physical activity and dietary behaviours? Developing and validating a set of national liveability indicators. *14th International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity, Edinburgh, Scotland, 3-6 June 2015.*



Boruff B, Badland H, Mavoa S, Turrell G, Bull F, Pettit C, Redman S, Bauman A, Hooper P, Villanueva K, Astell-Burt T, Feng X, Learnihan V, Collett J, Hurni A, Thackway S, Miller J, Giles-Corti B. The development and validation of national liveability indicators: linking geography, urban policy, chronic disease risk factors and health outcomes in Australia. *Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Chicago, USA, 21-25 April 2015.*



*Photos appearing in the newsletter were taken by Claire Boulange during the National Liveability Study Stakeholder and Academic Workshop.*