

The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre: The National Liveability Study

Opportunities

Designing Healthy Liveable Cities Conference



This conference bridges the gap between research, policy and practice. Keynotes will make the case for planning healthy and liveable cities and explore emerging topics. Researchers will link their latest findings to policy implications in short presentations that will be followed by panel discussions, with a policy-maker and practitioner from relevant areas of government and industry. They will consider how research findings can be applied to create healthy and liveable cities.

When: Thursday 19 – Friday 20 October 2017
Where: RMIT University, Melbourne CBD

[Click here for more information.](#)

PhD Scholarship at RMIT University

This project will investigate whether disadvantaged people living in more liveable neighbourhoods experience a 'pulling up' effect on their mental health and wellbeing over time.

Duration: 3 years with a possible 6 month extension.

Funding: Stipend of \$30,000 p.a.

[Click here for more information](#)

New Website

The National Liveability Study's new website is now live: [click here to visit it.](#)

Media Coverage

Learnihan, V. ["Walkability linked to reduced hospital costs, admissions: University of Canberra study."](#) *The Canberra Times*. 20 March 2017.

Rachele J. ["Contested spaces: a user's guide to shared paths."](#) *The Conversation*. 8 March 2017.

Giles-Corti B. ["Melbourne Leads Hi-Ci List."](#) *The Australian*. 18 November 2016.

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.

[Click here](#) for more information on The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre.

The National Liveability Study

In 2013 The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre funded The National Liveability Study to develop and validate a set of national, urban, policy-relevant, spatial liveability indicators associated with non-communicable disease risk behaviours and/or outcomes. This was completed at the end of 2015 and we now have a set of liveability indicators for five domains:

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

In 2016 The National Liveability Study was extended to a) assess the liveability measures and the scale at which they should be measured, b) undertake 'proof-of-concept' analyses to demonstrate the value of indicators being linked to national surveys, and c) explore development of a dissemination platform for the indicators.

Recent Activities

Forthcoming Report

In 2016 we commenced a collaborative project with the [Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub](#) (funded by the National Environmental Science Program) to map liveability indicators across Australian cities. This report will be released shortly.

Staff Appointments

Early this year we welcomed Dr Jonathan Arundel to the RMIT team. Dr Arundel is leading the development of the national geospatial database and portal that will allow users to visualise The National Liveability Study indicators. The portal will allow researchers to securely link population health survey data to these indicators, which will be analysed by Mr Stefan Cvetkovski whom we welcomed to the team this month.

Mr Cvetkovski has extensive experience in public health, in particular mental health and analysis of alcohol and drug use related harm. He will be analysing the national health survey data linked to the newly developed national liveability indicators. Mr Cvetkovski is currently completing his PhD at the Centre for Mental Health, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne.

Research Update

New national datasets for housing affordability, employment, transport and alcohol have been sourced and are being processed. An analysis of the appropriate scales for the national measures has been undertaken, with a publication in progress. Finally, linking The National Liveability Study indicators with the Ten To Men Study has been completed, with analysis to commence in August.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Dr Suzanne Mavoa who commenced an NHMRC Early Career Fellowship to investigate the associations between urban nature and cardio-vascular disease risk. Dr Mavoa continues as a collaborator on The National Liveability Study from the University of Melbourne.

Fortnightly News

Dr Jonathan Arundel was recently interviewed on the work of The National Liveability Study for The Australian Partnership Prevention centre's online and fortnightly news. [Click here](#) to read the article.

Recent Publications

1. Badland H, Mavoa S, Boulangé C, Gunn L, Eagleson S, Stewart J, Giles-Corti B. [Identifying, creating, and testing urban planning measures for transport walking: Findings from the Australian National Liveability Study](#). *Journal of Transport & Health* (5):151-162. June 2017.
2. Badland H, Rachele J, Roberts R, Giles-Corti B. [Creating and applying public transport indicators to test pathways of behaviours and health through an urban transport framework](#). *Journal of Transport & Health* 4:208-215, March 2017.

Upcoming Activities

Research Update Webinar

A webinar will be held on 23 August to provide a progress update on the National Liveability Study extension project. The webinar will provide an overview of the indicators that have been created for all Australian capital cities, and a demonstration of our prototype Urban Observatory: a new platform for disseminating indicators to policy makers and practitioners.

To register for the webinar please e-mail: emma.michelle@rmit.edu.au.

Past Activities

Research team move to RMIT University

In January Prof Billie Giles-Corti and her research team relocated to RMIT University. Prof Giles-Corti directs the Urban Futures Enabling Capability Platform and her team has become the Healthy Liveable Cities group in the Centre for Urban Research. The National Liveability Study continues at RMIT University.

Presentation to the World Congress on Public Health

On Wednesday 5th April key personnel from The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre including Prof Billie Giles-Corti presented a panel session on lessons from the partnership at the 15th World Congress in Public Health.

[Click here](#) to read more about the panel discussion.

Whole-of-Group Meeting

Co-investigators and collaborators on The National Liveability Study came together last year to review the research findings and discuss next steps. Researchers presented on the findings of each liveability domain (walkability, alcohol, transport, food and public open space) as well as technical successes and challenges.

Attendees participated in workshop sessions to consider how national liveability indicators might be mapped and disseminated, as well as the possibility of a national geospatial platform (currently being developed by Dr Jonathan Arundel).

Many thanks to those in attendance for their participation and valued input.



Co-investigators and collaborators at The National Liveability Study Whole-of-Group Meeting.

From left: Dr Bryan Boruff (UWA), Dr Jerome Rachele (ACU), Dr Vincent Learnihan (UC), Mr Chris Galano (visitor to The Sax Institute), Prof Gavin Turrell (ACU), Ms Denise Laughlin (Department of Health & Human Services), Ms Alison Camroux (National Heart Foundation), Prof Rachel Davey (UC), A/Prof Thomas Astell-Burt (UoW), Dr Xiaoqi Feng (UoW), Dr Iain Butterworth (Department of Health & Human Services), A/Prof Hannah Badland (RMIT), Ms Sonia Wutzke (The Sax Institute), Prof Billie Giles-Corti (RMIT), Dr Suzanne Mavoa (UoM), Ms Priscilla Goncalves (visitor to UoM), Ms Jane Monk (Victorian Planning Authority), Mr Rod Duncan (Planning Institute of Australia).