Opportunities

RMIT Engaging for Impact Conference 2018

This conference will connect industry needs & trends with RMIT University’s Enabling Capability Platforms. Come and engage with industry partners to create new sources of value and impact through interdisciplinary, industry-relevant research and innovation.

When: Tuesday 13 February - Thursday 15 February 2018.

Register: Click here for the conference website

Recent Media Coverage

Recent media coverage featuring National Liveability Study researchers and collaborators:

- “Garden Cities no more: Australia’s leafy urban centres are under pressure.” Foreground, 26 October 2017.
- “Does driving matter for a city’s liveability?”, Crikey, 18 October 2017.
- “City-by-city analysis shows our capitals aren’t liveable for many residents.” The Conversation, 17 October 2017.
- ‘Australian cities might not be as liveable as the rest of the world thinks’. Business Insider Australia, 12 October 2017.
- “This is what our cities need to do to be truly liveable for all.” The Conversation. 12 October 2017.
- “Can good design help with the treatment of dementia?” Sydney Morning Herald. 6 October 2017.
- “Casey unveils eight-point plan to become Australia’s most liveable city.” Cranbourne Leader. 5 July 2017.

Recent Activities

Creating Liveable Cities in Australia Report

Released in October, Creating Liveable Cities in Australia is the first “baseline” measure of liveability in Australia’s state and territory capitals. It represents the culmination of five years of research and examines seven domains of a city’s liveability that also promote the health and wellbeing of Australians: walkability, public transport, public open spaces, housing affordability, employment and the food and alcohol environments.

Creating Liveable Cities in Australia was a collaborative project between the National Liveability Study, the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Healthy, Liveable Communities, and the Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub (funded by the National Environmental Science Program) to map liveability indicators across Australian cities.

Download a copy of the report from our website here.

Research Update

In addition to the Creating Liveable Cities in Australia report, progress has been made on several fronts since the last National Liveability Study newsletter. One of the recommendations from the report was to expand the Federal government’s National Cities Performance Framework to include indicators from the report. We are pleased that the final version, launched on 8 December 2017, includes the access to public transport indicator from the report.

Click here to view the National Cities Performance Framework.

Data from the report will be made available in early 2018 through our prototype online urban observatory, enabling users to drill down into areas or regions of particular interest.

Finally, new national datasets assembled in preparation of the report will enable analyses of the associations between built environment and health outcomes to be undertaken at national scale. An analysis of the relationships between access to alcohol outlets (both on and off-licences) and mental health has been performed. In early 2018, further analyses of the association of the walkability domain with physical activity and cardiovascular health will occur.
Past Activities

Designing Healthy Liveable Cities Conference (19-20 October 2017)

The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre was the Principal Sponsor of the Designing Healthy Liveable Cities Conference hosted by the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Healthy Liveable Communities. This was a conference with a difference: researchers presented findings specifically with policymakers and practitioners in mind, and panels of policymakers and practitioners responded to the findings and discussed how – if at all – they could be translated into policy and practice.

Over 220 delegates attended, with keynote speakers including Paul Murrain (UK Urbanist); Amy Child (ARUP) Margie Tannock (Squire Patton Boggs) on the future of mobility with autonomous vehicles; Paula Hooper, Evan Jones and Mike Day on the implementation and evaluation of the Western Australian Government’s Liveable Neighbourhood Guidelines; and Hannah Badland and Jonathan Arundel on urban liveability. Each of the concurrent sessions presented the liveability indicators (most of which appeared in the Creating Liveable Cities in Australia report). Over lunch, policymakers and practitioners talked with researchers about the work challenges they faced, for which research might hold the answers.

It was a stimulating meeting attended by almost equal numbers of state government, local government and private sector, and research delegates. Importantly, 82.5% of delegates reported the conference would influence how they practiced their work in the future.

Research Update Webinar (23 August 2017)

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

Many thanks to all colleagues who were able to participate in the webinar.

About 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.

About 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 Presentations

- Giles-Corti B. “Sustainable urban development that creates healthy cities.” Sustainable Urban Development & Healthy Cities, China Centre for Urban Development of NDRC and WHO, Beijing, China, 10 November 2017.
- Boulange C. “Examining associations between urban design attributes and transport mode choice for walking, cycling, public transport and private motor vehicle trips.” Designing Health Liveable Cities Conference, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australian, 19 October 2017.
- Giles-Corti B. “Benchmarking and monitoring urban liveability.” Presented to Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet, Canberra, 21 August 2017.

Recent Publications

Reports


Book Chapters


Papers


Recent Awards

- Giles-Corti B. Thomson Reuters Highly Cited Researcher. In recognition of ranking among the top 1% of researchers for most cited publications in the field of social sciences. (2017)
- Giles-Corti B. Centre for Active Design (New York) Excellence Award. Awarded for the RESIDE research project, a 10 year study conducted through the University of Western Australia’s Centre for the Built Environment and Health. (2017)

About this Newsletter

This newsletter is created twice a year and sent to National Liveability Study researchers, collaborators, systems investigators and advisors, as well as those who are interested in following our projects.

For more information on our newsletter, or to contact the National Liveability Study team, please visit our website.