



The National Liveability Study (funded by The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre)

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

- ["Disrupting Ageing"](#) ABC Radio National, 10 November 2017.
- ["Garden Cities no more: Australia's leafy urban centres are under pressure."](#) *Foreground*, 26 October 2017.
- ["Victoria to measure walkability, work with councils on 20-minute neighbourhoods"](#), *Australian Financial Review*, 18 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.
- ["Australia's cities not so 'liveable' after all"](#), *Government News*, 16 October 2017.
- ["Real-life ratings for real-world Aus cities."](#) *Campus Morning Mail*. 13 October 2017.
- ["Liveable for whom? RMIT takes sheen off global liveability reports"](#), *The Fifth Estate*, 12 October 2017.
- ["What liveability? Melbourne not as good as it's made out to be"](#), *The Australian Financial Review*, 12 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.
- ["Australian cities perform poorly across liveability indicators: study."](#) ABC Radio National. 12 October 2017.
- ["Can good design help with the treatment of dementia?"](#) *Sydney Morning Herald*. 6 October 2017.
- [Interview on The Morning News with Gord Gillies](#) 770FM Calgary. 26 September 2017.
- ["Resilient Melbourne backs innovative travel apps."](#) *City of Melbourne*. 27 July 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.

Designing Healthy Liveable Cities Conference 2017



Delegates at the first Plenary of the Designing Healthy Liveable Cities Conference. The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre was Principal Sponsor of the conference.



A/Prof Sonia Wutzke was Chair of Plenary 4: “Are Australian Cities Healthy and Liveable?” A/Prof Sarah Thackway was also a Chair on a conference session, titled “Economic Benefits of Healthy Communities.”



Dr Jonathan Arundel during his keynote on whether Australian cities are delivering liveability.

Image 1 courtesy of Adam Thomas (ARThomas Photography). Images 2 & 3 courtesy of Emmanuel Mbala (Insert Memories Photography).

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. "Submission from the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Healthy Liveable Cities." Witness at Inquiry into the Australian Government's Role in the Development of Cities, Melbourne, 20 November 2017.
- 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.
- Giles-Corti B. (Keynote) "Creating healthy liveable communities: How can we optimise the golden age?" David Wallace Address, Australian Association of Gerontology Conference, Perth, 9 November 2017.
- Arundel, J, Lowe, M, Hooper, P, Roberts, R, Rozek, J, Higgs, C & Giles-Corti, B 2017, 'Are Australian cities delivering liveability?', paper presented to Designing Healthy Liveable Cities Conference, Melbourne, 20 October 2017.
- Cvetkovski, S., Arundel, J., & Giles-Corti, B. Access to alcohol outlets and male mental health: An area level analysis of an Australian survey. Designing Health Liveable Cities Conference, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australian, 19 October 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. (Keynote) "Urban design, transport and health: Could city planning metrics help achieve the new urban agenda?" 14th International Conference on Urban Health, Coimbra, Portugal, 27 September 2017.
- Giles-Corti B. "Creating healthy, liveable sustainable cities: Why, what and how?" ISEE17 Conference on Healthy Places, Health People – Where are the connections? Sydney, 25 September 2017.
- Giles-Corti B. "Building healthy liveable cities: are we there yet?" Victorian Planning & Environmental Law Association (VPELA) Conference, San Remo, 1 September 2017.
- Giles-Corti B. "Benchmarking and monitoring urban liveability." Presented to Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet, Canberra, 21 August 2017.

Recent Publications

Reports

- Arundel J, Lowe M, Hooper P, Roberts R, Rozek J, Higgs C & Giles-Corti B. *Creating liveable cities in Australia: Mapping urban policy implementation and evidence-based national liveability indicators*. RMIT University, Melbourne. October 2017.
- Arundel J, Lowe M, Hooper P, Roberts R, Rozek J, Higgs C, Giles-Corti B. *In brief: A report card on liveability in our cities*. RMIT University, Melbourne. October 2017.

Book Chapters

- Boulange C, Pettit C, Giles-Corti B. The Walkability Planning Support System: An Evidence-Based Tool to Design Healthy Communities. In *Planning Support Science for Smarter Urban Futures 2017* (pp. 153-165). Springer International Publishing.

Papers

- Rachele J, Learnihan V, Badland H, Mavoa S, Turrell G, Giles-Corti B. "Are Measures Derived From Land Use and Transport Policies Associated With Walking for Transport?" *Journal of Physical Activity & Health*, January 2018. 15.1:13-21.
- Hooper B, Boruff B, Beesley B, Giles-Corti B. "Testing spatial measures of public open space planning standards with walking and physical activity health outcomes: findings from the Australian National Liveability Study." *Landscape and Urban Planning*. Accepted December 2017.
- Lowe M, Whitzman C, Giles-Corti B. "Health-Promoting Spatial Planning: Approaches for Strengthening Urban Policy Integration." *Planning Theory & Practice*, December 2017. 1-18.
- Rachele J, Learnihan V, Badland H, Mavoa S, Turrell G, Giles-Corti B. "Neighbourhood socioeconomic and transport disadvantage: The potential to reduce social inequities in health through transport." *Journal of Transport & Health*, December 2017. 7.b: 256-263.
- Astell-Burt T, Feng X, Badland H, Mavoa S, Giles-Corti B. "Modest ratios of fast food outlets to supermarkets and green grocers are associated with higher body mass index: Longitudinal analysis of a sample of 15,229 Australians aged 45 years and older in the Australian National Liveability Study." *Health & Place*. Accepted 20 November 2017.
- Boulange C, Gunn L, Giles-Corti B, Mavoa S, Pettit C, Badland H. "Examining associations between urban design attributes and transport mode choice for walking, cycling, public transport and private motor vehicle trips." *Journal of Transport & Health*. 2017 Sep 1;6:155-66

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. *VicHealth Champion Award*. Awarded in recognition of long-time support of and contribution to VicHealth's work in health promotion. (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](#)