The Healthy Built Environments Program in Action

**POLICY SUBMISSIONS**

**NSW Planning System Review**
The HBEP has made a series of submissions to the NSW Government as it undertakes the first comprehensive review of the State’s Planning System in over 30 years. In association with other members of the NSW Healthy Planning Expert Working Group, the HBEP has called for the Government to place human health and wellbeing at the forefront of the new Planning Act.

**A New Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney**
The HBEP has made a detailed submission to the NSW Government as it develops a new metropolitan strategy for Sydney. This submission outlines key steps that must be taken to ensure Australia’s largest city supports the health and wellbeing of its citizens, both now and into the future.

**NSW Strata and Community Scheme Laws**
In response to the NSW Government’s review of the State’s strata and community scheme laws, the HBEP has made a submission outlining how strata living can enhance individual health while respecting the needs of the broader community in close residential living.

**National Urban Policy**
In 2011, the Federal Government released its National Urban Policy. The HBEP’s submission on the discussion paper was considered in the framing of this Policy, which endorses key healthy planning principles and initiatives.

**NEW PLANNER COLUMN**

For three years, the HBEP’s regular ‘Healthy Built Environments’ column in New Planner, the journal of the NSW planning profession, has raised awareness of planning’s role in creating built environments that support people’s health as part of everyday living. The HBEP column has become an invaluable source of information for planners who are keen to incorporate healthy built environment principles, policies and actions in their work.

HBEP Director, Associate Professor Susan Thompson, was also invited to be guest editor of the June 2012 Special Issue of New Planner, which focused on healthy urban environments and active living. This Issue is available as a free download from the HBEP’s website.

**WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTERS**

The HBEP’s website provides an important and highly accessible resource for health and built environment professionals, researchers, and students. It contains relevant publications, educational resources and links to other websites. The HBEP also distributes a quarterly newsletter, which brings up-to-date news and resources to the attention of healthy built environment stakeholders across Australia.

The Healthy Built Environments Program (HBEP) has successfully advocated for closer links between the built environment and health through publications, newsletters, policy submissions, popular media articles, conferences and public events. This poster provides a snapshot of the HBEP’s advocacy work, focusing on key initiatives that have advanced policy and practice in NSW and beyond.

**MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS**

The Media increasingly seek comments from HBEP staff members on a variety of healthy planning issues, from the walkability of suburbs and sustainable housing design, to food security and the health impacts of climate change. We have recently contributed to The Sydney Morning Herald, The Conversation, Diabetes Connect and GU Health’s Inform.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Visit the HBEP’s website to find out more about our advocacy work:
http://www.be.unsw.edu.au/programmes/healthy-built-environments-program/about