

Healthy Places, Healthy People Report

Creating great places to keep Queenslanders healthy



April 2021

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Queensland
Government



Queensland Health pays its respects to the Traditional Owners of the land on which this report was produced, the Turrbal and Yuggera people, and acknowledges their Elders past, present and emerging.

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- Department of Environment and Science
- Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
- Department of Resources
- Queensland Police Service
- Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
- Queensland Treasury

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Foreword



South Bank, Brisbane, Tourism and Events Queensland

There is no better time to design and create built environments that preference healthier living for Queenslanders.

With a strong focus under the Unite and Recover Plan to build better and significant investment in infrastructure, there are real opportunities to create a healthier Queensland for all.

We are in the early phase of an exciting journey where government agencies are increasingly working together. We are breaking down portfolio silos to see how we can work efficiently and effectively to improve health outcomes for Queenslanders. Sometimes it is the most unlikely of partners, who when working together can have the greatest impact.

Queensland Health is pleased to provide the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* Report, March 2021. This report has five objectives:

- to strengthen government agency's understanding of the impact of place on health,
- to promote the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* Framework and demonstrate application opportunities,
- to report on the process for establishing validated indicators,
- to reflect on challenges and learnings to date, and
- to stimulate ongoing cross government conversations to identify and prioritise future directions.

The report can be shared between government agencies for the purposes of fostering the continued cross government collaboration that has served this work well to date.

We look forward to continued partnerships with this important work. Together we will create and build environments where all Queenslanders can be healthy for life.

Dr Jeannette Young PSM
Chief Health Officer, Queensland

Within Government there is a collective responsibility to ensure that the design and development of our cities and regions contribute positively to the way we live.

There is a long history of the important connection between urban design and its impact on public health. Now, more than ever, there is a need to prioritise the quality and design of our places to enable communities to connect both physically and mentally in ways that support our health and wellbeing. Ultimately, a purposeful and focused response to the current health epidemic challenges, will contribute to healthier communities with greater resilience for future challenges.

Over the last few years, the Office of the Queensland Government Architect and Queensland Health's Preventative Health Branch have been working collaboratively to understand how we might positively influence decision makers, designers and developers to support improved health outcomes for the community. The *Healthy Places, Healthy People* Initiative is a positive first program step in understanding the principles of how healthy places impact active health throughout our communities.

Healthy Places, Healthy People establishes an evidence base that supports well-designed, healthy and sustainable environments in Queensland. We congratulate Queensland Health for embarking on this important collaboration. Ultimately it will enable recognition that community health is a shared responsibility and that the design of Queensland's built and natural environments has a critical role to play in supporting improved quality of life for all Queenslanders.

Malcolm Middleton
Queensland Government Architect



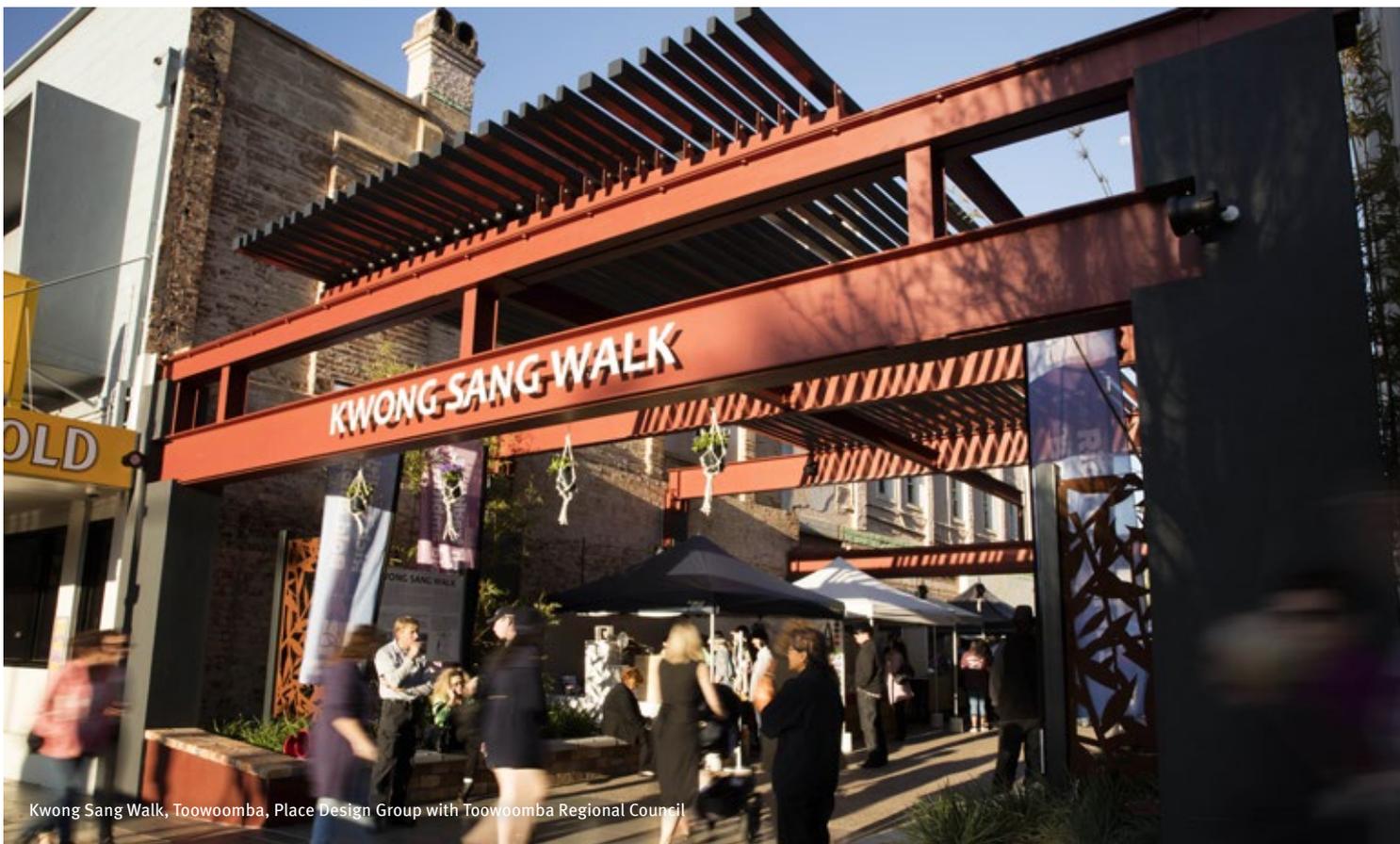
The Evidence

Good health has many benefits for individuals, families, communities, regions and the state. It reduces inequalities and demand for health and social services and contributes to increased productivity and a stronger economy. By international standards, Queenslanders enjoy a high level of health and wellbeing. However, while many Queenslanders are living longer, many are also spending more years in poor health that reduces their quality of life and productivity.[1] It is concerning that almost 40% of this disease burden is from risk factors that are lifestyle related and can be prevented.[2]

Without action, evidence indicates this burden will only increase as our population ages, creating unsustainable health system and societal costs. Health service delivery continues to consume the largest portion of the Queensland Budget. Supporting Queenslanders to live healthy lives across their lifespan will help to constrain these future costs. However, only a small percentage of the health budget is typically spent on prevention.[3] To achieve good health for

all and support Queenslanders to adopt a healthier lifestyle, we need more than personal knowledge, skills, motivation and resources - we also need supportive physical and social environments.

This thinking is not new and there is a long and connected history between the places we live our lives and our health. Evidence demonstrates well-designed built and natural environments can preference healthy lifestyles, contribute to reducing health risks and improve physical and mental health outcomes for the community in the longer term. [4-12] Places that are designed to bring people together reduce our risk of experiencing social isolation, support mental wellbeing and help build resilient communities. Further, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that people with existing lifestyle related diseases experience worse health outcomes when challenged with acute infections, and these impacts are likely to be long lasting.



Kwong Sang Walk, Toowoomba, Place Design Group with Toowoomba Regional Council





Goodwill Bridge, Brisbane, Tourism and Events Queensland

The Opportunity

Queensland's Economic Recovery plan, Unite and Recover prioritises building infrastructure that supports health and wellbeing to protect and safeguard our diverse communities. Certain attributes of built environments are proven to support both physical and mental health and wellbeing. Hence, the importance of planning and delivering well-designed places and spaces that are flexible and adaptive to meet both current and future communities' needs cannot be underestimated.

The Challenges

Influencing for the health of place is both a priority and challenge for Queensland Health. The department is responsible for promoting and protecting the health and wellbeing of current and future generations of Queenslanders. However, it is built on structures and systems that are primarily focused on the treatment of illness, with limited influence over the environments in which people live, learn, work and play.

Other agencies with policy and investment responsibilities for built and natural environment infrastructure have the greatest potential to positively impact the health and wellbeing of our communities. Hence, Queensland Health needs to work with these agencies to make the greatest impact on the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders.

Often there is a disconnect between available policy levers and the consistent delivery of built environment attributes proven to support healthy living. Furthermore, Queensland Government's significant investment in built and natural

environment infrastructure is not measured, monitored or reported through a health lens. These factors prompted Queensland Health to consider the value and benefits for Government in establishing a mechanism to strengthen our understanding of built environment attributes that support healthy and active living.

Existing measures were considered, including the well-recognised Healthy Liveable Cities indicators reported through the [Australian Urban Observatory \(AUO\)](#). These indicators are underpinned by strong evidence of built environment design attributes proven to optimise liveability and support people to live healthy and active lives. The AUO indicators are currently available at a local government level for seven Queensland cities and regional townships. However, they may be available for purchase for other local government areas if this need was identified. While these liveability indicators reported through the AUO provide robust evidence, there was no established process to support Queensland government agencies to consider this evidence collaboratively.



The Action

Queensland Health engaged across government with agencies with responsibility for specific built and natural environment policy, planning and investment directions to:

- develop the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* Framework
- identify and analyse relevant Queensland policy-driven data sets to ascertain health impact, specifically active living
- identify existing projects and initiatives with strong *Healthy Places, Healthy People* alignment and future collaboration opportunities.

The Journey

Existing evidence and outcomes from the co-design workshop necessitated a refinement of the initial 'Green, Connected, Active' themes and informed the development of the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* Framework. This framework identifies three key principles 'Connected, Welcoming and Responsible'

and brings together nine associated attributes of built and natural environments proven to support healthy and active living. No single principle or attribute within the framework is more important than another, however some will be more relevant or of a higher priority than others for different Queensland communities.

The framework was released for use across government in January 2020 and has been positively received. This framework reinforces that it is the collective impact of including these attributes in considered and well planned environments that will improve health outcomes. It is encouraging to see the growing sense of ownership for the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* Framework across government with some partner agencies identifying additional opportunities for use to guide and inform policy directions, program planning and investment decisions.



Attachment 1: provides further information about these key steps.

Consultation Process

Preliminary consultation with key agency partners identified potential value in establishing Queensland specific healthy place indicators that aligned with existing policy directions. It is proposed that having Queensland indicators to measure and monitor the health of place will provide government agencies with specific and well-aligned evidence to inform future policy and planning directions and infrastructure investment decisions. Given synergies with existing planning and policy directions, strong international evidence base and data availability, the initial scope for identifying potential indicators has focused on built and natural environment attributes in Queensland that support active living.

Queensland Health invited policy and data experts from agencies with responsibility for built and natural environment infrastructure to participate in working groups to identify potential Queensland specific indicators and data sources. Following the initial cross agency working group meetings, COVID-19 restrictions prevented the running of large group face-to-face meetings. To keep the process moving, the work was transitioned to online engagement with individual agencies, but this did limit the cross-agency learning and collaboration that was anticipated from this process.



Healthy Places, Healthy People Framework.
Illustration by Rachel Apelt, Artbalm.



Establishing validated indicators

To identify relevant and feasible indicators that align with the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* Framework there was collaboration with data and policy officers from partner agencies to consider:

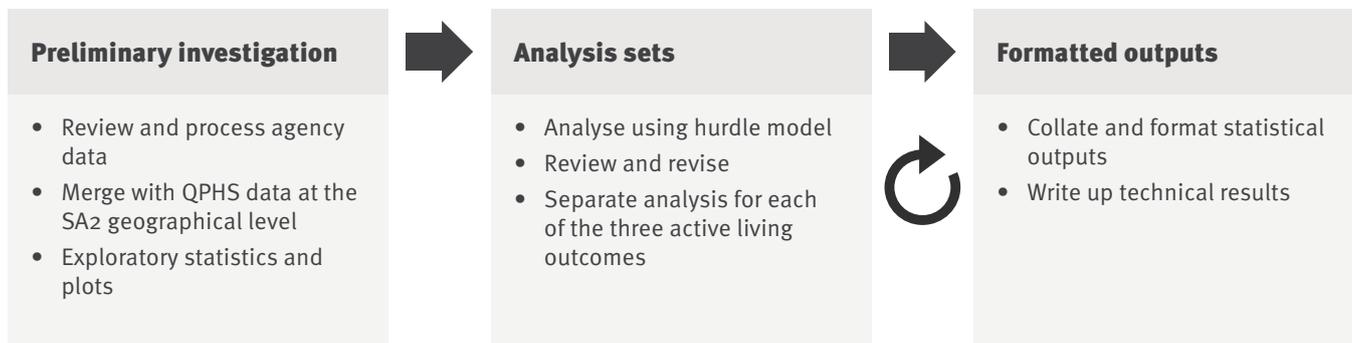
- evidence-based reports and academic papers;
- relevant *Healthy Places, Healthy People* framework attributes;
- current policy directions and existing agency indicators.

Cairns Performing Arts Precinct by Cox Architecture in association with CA Architects and Andrew Prowse Landscape Architect, Christopher Frederick Jones

Our approach

Queensland Health collaborated with agency partners to analyse how the agency nominated indicator data influence active living. The agency nominated indicator data was sought under the three principles of ‘Connected’, ‘Welcoming’ and ‘Responsible’. The active living outcomes (total physical activity, walking and neighbourhood walking) were sourced from the Queensland preventive health survey (QPHS) 2020. The statistical analyses used a hurdle model to quantify the potential impact of the indicators on active living at the SA2 geographical level, while accounting for specific features of the active living outcome data[13]. Additional details about the QPHS and statistical methods are provided in Attachment 2.

Analysis pipeline





Our findings

'Connected' indicators

Three indicators that aligned with the Connected principle were identified from collaborations with the Department of Transport and Main Roads, and Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport. All three indicators demonstrated statistically significant relationships with active living.

Department of Transport and Main Roads

Two Department of Transport and Main Roads indicator data sources were identified:

1. Land-use Urban Planning and Transport Accessibility Indicators (LUPTAI) provide modelled median travel times to essential services by walking¹, cycling and public transport for South East Queensland (SEQ) and select Queensland regional centres
2. Queensland Household Travel Survey (HTS) provides data on proportion of trips with different transport modes, including active transport. The latest year of data available at the time of analysis was for SEQ only.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads uses LUPTAI and the HTS to:

- Provide a snapshot of key travel trends across Queensland;
- Explore how changes to residential population density, different land use scenarios and improvements in transport infrastructure will impact transport accessibility;
- Inform infrastructure and public transport planning projects in response to observed travel behaviours and population growth projections; and
- Provide metrics on the success of programs, policies and infrastructure relating to transport accessibility via the active, private and public transport networks.

Indicator 1: Accessibility of essential services by walking, cycling and public transport (LUPTAI).

Increased levels of active living were observed among Queenslanders who lived in residential areas with greater accessibility to essential services (measured by a lower LUPTAI median travel time from residences to essential services). Increased active living behaviours, were consistently correlated with greater accessibility to essential services for each examined mode (walk, cycle, public transport).

Indicator 2: Active transport use (HTS)

Increased physical activity, walking and neighbourhood walking times were observed in SEQ residential areas in which residents took more trips with an active transport component.

Potential to inform policy and investment directions

Walking and bicycle riding play a critical role in an integrated transport system that improves health, liveability and the environment. The Queensland Transport Strategy prioritises the provision of an integrated, accessible, convenient and safe transport system that makes it easy for Queenslanders to access employment, education, essential services and recreational facilities. Furthermore, current Department of Transport and Main Roads Walking and Cycling strategies highlight that every Queenslander should have the opportunity to use quality walking and cycling infrastructure as part of their daily routine and enjoy the lifelong health benefits associated with increased physical activity.

Research and data help us understand who is, and where and why people are walking and riding bicycles. This information is valuable to ensure investments are planned and prioritised to maximise impact in the places they are most needed.

1. Walking also refers to people jogging or moving with the aid of a mobility device such as a wheelchair.

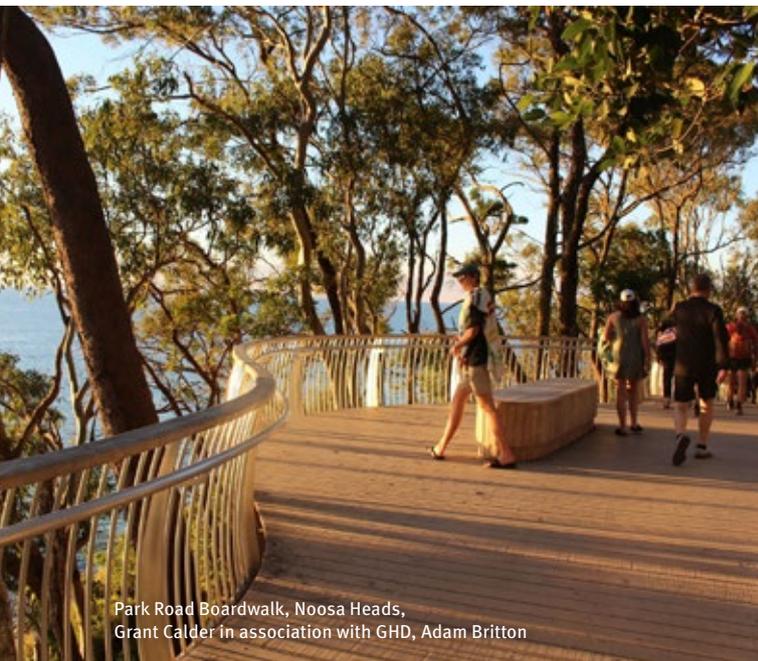


Analysis of the relationship between LUPTAI and active living outcomes strengthened our understanding of the importance of accessibility. Analysis findings demonstrated that people who have greater access to essential services were likely to be more physically active. The relationship between the HTS data and active living outcomes reinforces the importance of neighbourhood design that supports walkability and provides safe cycling infrastructure. Readily available well-designed walking and cycling infrastructure facilitates increased active transport use and subsequently active living. This has policy implications for how we design our neighbourhoods and towns. It is envisaged these findings will strengthen future public transport infrastructure business cases and ensure location planning considers both residential and essential service accessibility.

There are significant opportunities to expand active transport infrastructure to support, sustain and further encourage the use of active transport modes. This would deliver multiple benefits including improved safety for walkers and bicycle riders, improved mental and physical health outcomes as well as reducing road congestion and negative environmental impacts.

Future collaborative opportunities

Opportunities to access movement data through mobile phones and other physical activity tracking platforms to gain greater insights regarding walking and other transport mode use have been identified. There is also anecdotal evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic has influenced people's use of active travel modes for recreation, employment and education as well as increased levels of incidental neighbourhood walking and bicycle riding in some locations. Queensland Health and the Department of Transport and Main Roads share an interest in further understanding this impact, as well as ways to support and sustain increased levels of physical activity in Queensland communities.



Park Road Boardwalk, Noosa Heads,
Grant Calder in association with GHD, Adam Britton

Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport

Through collaborative discussions with Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport, a sporting venue² density indicator was assessed using venue information from the [Sports Planning Tool \(SPT\)](#).

Indicator 3: Access to sporting venues in local neighbourhood (venue density per 10km²).

Increased physical activity, walking and neighbourhood walking times were associated with increased availability of sporting venues in Queensland communities or neighbourhoods. Furthermore, residents living in areas with more sporting venues were found to be more likely to engage in walking and walking in their local neighbourhood.

Potential to inform policy and investment directions

The design of our built and natural environments can preference and encourage physical activity. The findings from this analysis demonstrate that in local communities where there are more sporting venues Queenslanders are more physically active, walk more and walk more in their neighbourhood.

Supporting Queensland communities to have access to places and spaces that support physical activity is an identified priority under the [Activate! Queensland Strategy 2019-2029](#). These findings strengthen the benefits realisation perspective to ensure Queenslanders have access to sporting venues in their local communities and may inform and prioritise planning and investment directions for locations with limited access.

As local councils own and manage the majority of open space, local parks and recreational infrastructure and facilities, it is envisaged they will have an interest in these findings to inform planning for place-based activities and programs. This information is also likely to be used by local clubs and state level organisations in combination with growth and decline population and geographic data to inform location planning for new sporting facilities. These findings may catalyse local conversations regarding place-based school infrastructure solutions under the [Community Use of Schools](#) initiative to maximise community access to sport facilities.

Future collaborative opportunities

There may be opportunities to access supplementary sport type data that is not currently available in the Sport Planning Tool through the Office of Fair Trading.

2. For the Sports and Recreation Branch analysis in 2020, sporting venues were facilities which were used by any of the 12 sport types with available information in the Sports Planning Tool. These facilities included parks, Police-Citizens Youth Clubs, schools, stadiums and sports complexes.



Our findings

'Welcoming' indicator

Through collaborative discussions with Queensland Police Service, the potential to use reported offence data for 2019 by broad offence categories (persons, property, other) available through the Online Crime Map was identified. The Online Crime Map provides information on the types of crimes that happened in Queensland over the past two years as well as crime trends and patterns.

Indicator 4: Reported neighbourhood crime

No statistically significant associations were found between the broad category offence data and the active living outcomes considered in this analysis.

Potential to inform policy and investment directions

Queensland Police Service and Queensland Health have a shared interest in creating built environments that support community safety and promote health and wellbeing. There is considerable evidence that well designed built and natural environments can create safer places and reduce community crime rates.[14, 15] Creating safe places helps build connected, inclusive and healthy communities. The [Crime Prevention through Environmental Design \(CPTED\) Guidelines for Queensland](#)³ provides principles to inform planning, design and management of new developments, and retrofitting of existing developments.

Having a stronger understanding of built environment attributes that help create safe places, reduce crime rates and support people to be more active in their local communities could strengthen the rationale for inclusion of attributes proven to create safe places in future planning and investment decisions.

Future collaborative opportunities

While a statistically significant relationship was not found between the Online Crime Map data and active living outcomes here, this has been a useful exploratory exercise to build an understanding of the complex relationship between personal safety and active living. Similar difficulties in quantifying the relationships between objective crime indicators such as reported crime rates and active living outcomes have been reported in academic literature.[16, 17] Compared with objective crime indicators, stronger associations were found between safety perception indicators and active living outcomes. [18]



Beenleigh Town Square Project, Logan, Logan City Council, AECOM, MRCagney and Wilson Architects, Jason Daley

3. Currently under review.



Our findings

'Responsible' indicator

There is a growing recognition across government on the importance of open green spaces for physical and mental health, coupled with effective shade given Queensland's year-round warm climate and high to extreme UV environment. Collaborative discussions with multiple agencies identified several potential data sources for open green spaces and shade that are available in a geospatial format. Queensland Health is currently establishing GIS capacity that could support future analysis of potential responsible built environment indicators with active living outcomes.

The Department of Environment and Science, in collaboration with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Queensland Health, is delivering the 'Heat, Health and Human Environment' (HHHE) project. The project is designed to improve our understanding of how heat affects human health in Queensland. The project will develop indicators to identify community vulnerability to heatwaves. It will also produce high-resolution maps showing how climate change will influence local heatwave conditions and thermal comfort under different projected greenhouse gas emission scenarios at twenty-year intervals out to 2090.

These factors preclude stronger interpretation of the indicator analysis findings. Additionally, some agencies' ability to provide indicators was limited due to data confidentiality or sensitivity concerns. Opportunities to pursue formal data sharing arrangements across agencies were limited in 2020.

In addition, this work identified internal technical expertise and system access limitations, particularly geographic information system (GIS) support, and this prevented the analysis of many spatial data sources and indicators.

Further, there is also significant interest across government in demonstrating the economic value of investing in healthy places. [19-21] This identifies an important cross agency mandate to deliver value for Queenslanders, and although challenging to achieve, is something for consideration in future project phases through collaborative cross government approaches.

Our learnings

The Queensland preventive health survey provides annual health behaviour data from a Queensland wide representative sample but does not collect information about specific built and natural environment attributes. Instead, partner agencies nominated potential indicators that aligned with their policy directions and efforts to source this information from other agencies presented the following challenges:

- Most agency indicators did not have complete spatial coverage across Queensland. Certain indicators were not able to be pursued further in this report due to limited spatial coverage;
- Analyses endeavoured to use the latest available information from each data source and assumed minor temporal differences would not impact findings appreciably at the population level;
- Agency indicators were not specifically developed for *Healthy Places*, *Healthy People* initiative and had to be adapted for use in the analysis.

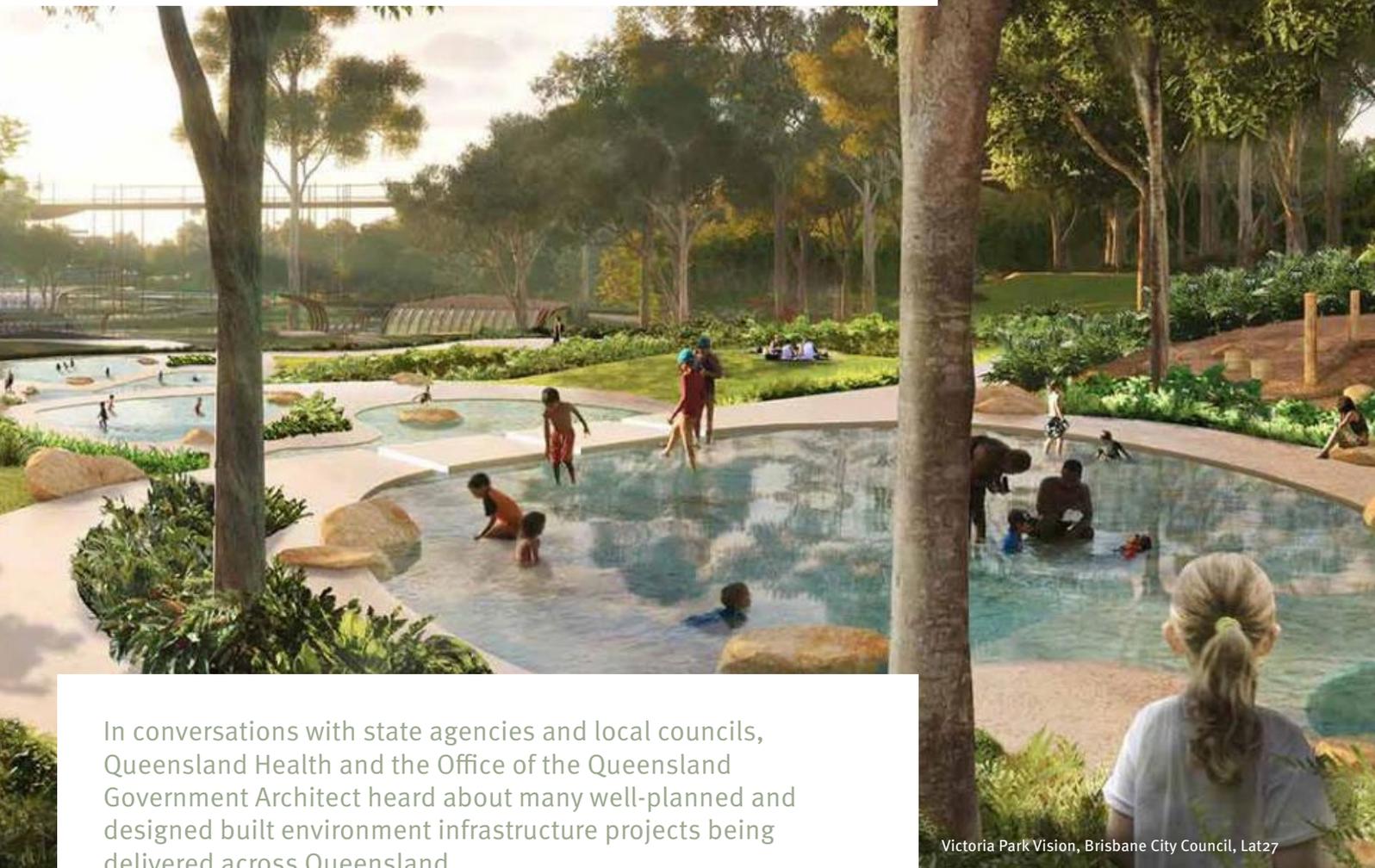


Australian Catholic University, Banyo, Conrad Gargett, Christopher Frederick Jones



Case studies

Evidence of great practice



Victoria Park Vision, Brisbane City Council, Lat27

In conversations with state agencies and local councils, Queensland Health and the Office of the Queensland Government Architect heard about many well-planned and designed built environment infrastructure projects being delivered across Queensland.

From small scale through to master plans, these projects:

- are creating more great places in Queensland that preference health and wellbeing;
- demonstrate clear alignment with the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* framework;
- demonstrate use of an integrated planning approach, where healthy and active living considerations are incorporated in a cost effective manner at the outset.

A number of these great projects are highlighted in this report.



Case study

Interactive maps make it easier to move around

For people who use wheelchairs and other mobility devices, the built environment can be difficult to navigate due to a lack of wayfinding information about accessible routes. The Department of Transport and Main Roads [Inclusive Mapping Pilot Project](#) combines the lived experience of people with mobility challenges and data collection technology to better understand the challenges people who use mobility devices encounter when navigating urban environments.

The project involved fitting devices to wheelchairs that collected information about footpath conditions and the level of effort required by wheelchair users to navigate the built environment. This data is combined with lived

experience feedback from participants to generate maps which highlight accessible pathways and potentially match routes to a person's physical abilities. Maps have been developed for a small but diverse range of areas throughout Queensland to enable testing of a number of aspects of the overall approach.

Outputs from this project including wayfinding maps to make it easy for people with different physical abilities to get around and access public transport and essential services clearly aligns with the attributes associated with the Connected principle in the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* Framework.



Main Street Barcaldine by M3 Architecture and Brian Hooper Architect (architects in association) with Barcaldine Regional Council, Aaron Skinner

Case study

Vibrant local placemaking on display in Barcaldine!

Creating a welcoming vibe in local communities and precincts to bring members of the community together and encourage participation is a priority for local councils. This helps build a strong sense of community and perception of safety that helps reduce member's risk of experiencing social isolation.

Outside the box thinking, combined with a desire to activate the town's commercial centre and retain important heritage, informed the masterplan for the redevelopment of Barcaldine's Main Street. The longer-term vision was achieved through the progressive completion of multiple projects over several years to encourage safe pedestrian movement and optimise the connection between the commercial centre and heritage tourist attractions.

The masterplan incorporated the renewal of the historically and politically significant [Tree of Knowledge](#), with the new

canopy design providing a generous shaded public plaza and transformed the historic Globe Hotel into the tourist information centre. Located on opposite sides and ends of the main street these two main tourist attractions create gateways at the town's entry points. The redirection of the national highway, reduction of vehicle speed limits in the area and movement of a car park prioritises safe pedestrian movement as well as encourages visitor engagement with commercial businesses and the town's broader heritage.

Through application of best practice urban design principles, the Barcaldine Main Street has been revitalised, whilst retaining its heritage and character, to provide a welcoming destination for contemplation and celebration. Outputs from this well considered masterplan showcase the Connected, Welcoming and Responsible principles and many *Healthy Places, Healthy People* Framework attributes.





Brisbane Kids

Case study

Creating active and cool school travel routes

Brisbane City Council’s [Active School Travel \(AST\) program](#) encourages primary school students to use sustainable travel options to get to school such as walking, bicycle riding, scootering, carpooling and public transport. It helps to create healthier, more active students and families.

To complement this program and provide shady and green active travel routes, the Council identifies tree planting opportunities in surrounding streets with a focus on key travel routes. Where possible, students are invited to participate in tree planting activities to improve their local neighbourhood and develop an appreciation of the importance of shade trees.

With tree-shaded pathways reducing UVR exposure by up to seventy-five percent and the ambient temperature by up to seven degrees Celsius than non shaded pathways these cooler, shaded transport corridors will encourage active living and reduce skin cancer risk. This initiative demonstrates alignment with both the Connected and Responsible principles of the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* Framework.

Case study

Oxley Creek Transformation Project – Warril Parkland

The award-winning Oxley Creek Transformation Master Plan is a comprehensive, long-term plan that guides the delivery of a range of environmental, social and economic outcomes that will have regional benefits for Brisbane. The overarching Master Plan vision is to transform the 20-kilometre long Oxley Creek corridor into a vast multi-use parkland, environmental asset and tourist destination, hosting a range of recreation activities, economic hubs, cultural heritage and environmental interpretive experiences, as well as improved connections for people and wildlife. Oxley Creek Transformation Pty Ltd (OCT) is a subsidiary company of Brisbane City Council tasked with delivering on the vision for Oxley Creek. OCT undertook an extensive program of engagement and consultation with the Oxley Creek community and key stakeholder groups to identify strong support for a parkland that could provide nature-based adventure experiences for children and adults.

Key to the design and construction of the project was the protection of existing regional ecosystems and remnant vegetation within the existing parkland, with new infrastructure only located on previously damaged and degraded areas of the site.

The project team worked together with the Yuggera Ugarapul People to identify the cultural heritage values of the site and develop the Warril Parkland Discovery Trail, which aims to encourage children to explore the parkland and learn more about its history as well as the plants and animals that live there. Trail didactics reference First Nations Peoples’ history and their special relationship with the land.

Warril Parkland is the first priority project to be delivered under the Master Plan. Located in the suburb of Larapinta, approximately 30 kilometres south-west of Brisbane’s CBD, stage one of the Parkland officially opened in mid-2020. The Parkland is surrounded by developing residential suburbs where the average block size is around 400-450sqm, meaning children and adults have limited ability to engage with nature in their backyards. Warril Parkland provides the perfect solution for residents, in particular families with children, to be able to engage with the outdoor environment in a hands-on way. The nature-based playground incorporates a range of engaging elements including water-play, mud-play, cubby house building, and a children’s discovery trail. The parkland has two picnic areas as well as a lakeside boardwalk and a pontoon where children can get out on the water and spot aquatic animals.

Future opportunities identified in the Master Plan include canoe and kayak facilities, bush walking and beginner off-road cycling trails, bird watching hides and lookouts, as well as a community event and activity lawn. Over time, Warril Parkland will also become the southern gateway to The Greenway, a 20-kilometre long walking and cycling path that will connect all the parklands and destinations along the creek corridor.

The Oxley Creek Transformation project is an exercise in collaboration between the community, industry, business and government stakeholders. The aim is to deliver a clean, green lifestyle and leisure destination that will appeal to families, recreation groups and nature enthusiasts alike, where the environment can flourish whilst also creating a great place to keep Queenslanders healthy. The project will provide a blueprint for future sustainable, open greenspace and lifestyle design that embodies the welcoming, connected and responsible principles of the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* Framework.



Warril Parkland, Larapinta – delivered on behalf of Brisbane City Council.





Queensland Health: *Healthy Places, Healthy People* Workshop.

Engaging with Local Government

In November 2020, with support from Local Government Association of Queensland, Queensland Health and the Office of the Queensland Government Architect hosted a webinar for local council Chief Executive's and relevant officers. The purpose being to introduce the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* initiative and framework, seek feedback on its relevance for use at the local level and explore interest in partnership opportunities.

Participants demonstrated significant interest in the framework and application opportunities. Ongoing conversations with local councils regarding the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* initiative has been positive, with officers reporting a strong alignment between the Framework and some of their existing strategic planning documents and existing projects. Some councils expressed interest in ongoing conversations to consider how they could apply the framework to inform future policy and planning directions.

Queensland Health and Office of the Queensland Government Architect would like to strengthen these new partnerships to progress joined-up planning between state agencies, local councils and other relevant stakeholders to achieve better outcomes for local communities. Two exciting opportunities to pilot the application of the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* Framework in such partnerships are currently in progress.

Hospital redevelopment project provides an opportunity to create a wellness precinct!

Ipswich and West Moreton Hospital and Health Service (IWMHHS) is planning for the re-development and expansion of the Ipswich Hospital precinct and facilities. Preliminary discussions with IWMHHS and Ipswich City Council have identified synergies with the hospital precinct vision, long-term city aspirations and the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* Framework.

Opportunities to progress a wellness focused collaborative planning approach to maximise benefits for the city and community are being considered. Learnings from this collaborative approach will inform a blueprint to guide future integrated city and health service planning.

Design solutions to preference active integrated transport!

Brisbane City Council identified a collaborative partnership opportunity to consider options for a climate smart bus shelter design. Brisbane City Council receives significant feedback from the community regarding current bus shelter design that provides limited shade and protection from rain.

A working group has been established with officers from Brisbane City Council, Department of Transport and Main Roads, TransLink, Office of the Government Architect and Queensland Health to consider existing guidance material as well as potential bus shelter design solutions that are responsive and protective for Queensland conditions. The potential and scalable action that could come from this project is exciting, with a real opportunity to provide practical bus shelter design guidance that could be adopted by other Queensland councils.





Reflections on this journey

Harvey's James Street, Twohill and James,
Christopher Frederick Jones

Influencing for the inclusion of health outcome considerations in built environment design and infrastructure plans and projects delivered by other government agencies remains a priority for Queensland Health.

To achieve more consistent inclusion of considerations that preference health and wellbeing in policy directions and investment decisions for built and natural environments we identified an opportunity to engage with partner agencies to:

- build a stronger understanding of built and natural environment attributes that support healthy and active living;
- identify a suite of indicators to measure, monitor and report on the health of place, with an initial focus on built and natural environment attributes that support active living; and
- establish a cross-government process to consider, refine and use these healthy place indicators for active living.

What has worked well and what has been challenging

Cross government engagement through the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* initiative has been a journey of discovery, with partner agencies gaining a better understanding of the unique contribution their own and other agencies can make to this shared agenda. The collaborative nature of the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* initiative has enabled shared learning which has helped expand knowledge around healthy placemaking. Furthermore, the engagement process with state agencies and local government has fostered productive, cooperative partnerships and facilitated the development of a shared vision that is represented through the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* Framework.

The *Healthy Places, Healthy People* Framework has resonated strongly with state and local government partners. However, a framework will only deliver change if it is considered, translated, and integrated into investments. Ongoing cross-agency collaboration and commitment will be necessary to establish processes to consistently implement the intent of this framework, measure progress and deliver built environments that preference the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Following release of the framework, Queensland Health collaborated with other agencies to consider and develop measurable indicators of healthy places. Analysis findings confirm people who live in neighbourhoods with greater access to active and integrated transport networks, essential services and sport facilities are more physically active than people who live in neighbourhoods without these attributes. However, further work is required to ascertain if these findings are sufficient to influence future built environment and prioritise health considerations in infrastructure investment decisions.

This process has revealed a number of significant challenges in correlating data between agencies and further work could be done to standardise how government collects and analyses data to enable further cross agency benefits to be realised. Developing Queensland policy specific indicators has been challenging and labour intensive, and at times, requiring expertise, systems and data that were not readily available during the project.

Queensland Health will now lead a process to determine whether building or obtaining these necessary capacities is required, or if there are others ways to deliver value for Queenslanders through improved built and natural environments.



Next Steps

As government agencies continue to focus their efforts under Unite and Recover, Queensland's Economic Recovery Plan, it is important that we build on the foundations established under *Healthy Places, Healthy People* initiative and deliver built environment infrastructure projects that preference health considerations. Whilst the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* Framework has been well accepted, we need to translate the intent into action as the potential to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities is real and unrealised.

Moving forward we need to:

- Consistently promote the intent of the framework in policy and planning directions and delivering infrastructure projects;
- Provide assessment criteria and guidance resources, which identify design attributes that preference healthy living, to support effective implementation of the framework;
- Focus on applying the framework on specific projects and establish processes to evaluate the impacts from the application of the framework;
- Provide a mechanism for continued cross agency collaboration and learning;
- Ascertain the value in applying the framework to consider, refine and use additional Queensland specific healthy place indicators.

Cross- agency engagement through the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* initiative has strengthened our collaborative relationships and built a shared understanding of the value of healthy placemaking. As we continue this work, it will be important to recognise and celebrate positive outcomes from healthy placemaking policies, practices and projects for Queensland communities.



Bundaberg CBD revitalisation. Bundaberg Regional Council, Archipelago.



Attachment 1

To strengthen our capacity to provide influential preventive health advice for built environment infrastructure policy directions and planning processes across government, Queensland Health undertook the following activities:

Evidence review: completed a significant literature review to identify evidence around attributes of built environments that influence active living and explore indicators for measurement to inform policy and investment opportunities.

Strengthened insight of policy levers and priorities: undertaken a deep dive regarding policy directions and priorities of Queensland Government agencies responsible for built and natural environment to gain a greater understanding of key drivers and opportunities to influence for inclusion of health considerations.

Program logic: used learnings from other jurisdictions, potential intersects between government strategic and operational drivers and evidence regarding built environment design and health outcomes to inform development of the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* program logic. The relevance and feasibility for this logic was reviewed by five independent multidisciplinary experts. Advice regarding strengths of the proposed approach, options for indicators and potential implementation challenges was provided.

Key themes and built environment attributes: synthesized existing evidence, multidisciplinary review feedback and preliminary cross government consultation to identify three key themes of healthy places.

Co-design approach: coordinated a workshop involving officers from government agencies with policy, planning or investment responsibility for built and natural environments.

Participating officers considered a broad definition of health that reflected both the physical and mental wellbeing of an individual as well as the social, emotional and cultural wellbeing of the broader community. This definition underpinned considerations and workshop activities to test three identified themes 'Green, Connected, Active' and evidence informed attributes of healthy places.

Potential indicator definitions, functions and available and feasible data sources were discussed. Implementation challenges, potential data gaps and issues relating to scale were considered. A workshop outcome summary report was circulated to all attendees to facilitate ongoing consultation. The themes of 'Green, Connected, Active' were refined to the 'Connected, Welcoming and Responsible' principles of the framework as part of the workshop outcomes.

Indicators to measure the health of place: collaborated with key partner agencies to assess Queensland specific indicators which support active living and will help inform future policy, planning and investment directions.

Local Government engagement: engaged with councils regarding the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* initiative, given their integral role in planning and delivering built and natural environment infrastructure at the local level. With support from Local Government Association of Queensland, Queensland Health and the Office of the Queensland Government Architect hosted a webinar for local council Chief Executive's and relevant officers in November 2020. The purpose of the webinar was to introduce the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* initiative and framework, seek feedback on its relevance for use at the local level and explore interest in partnership opportunities.



Queensland Performing Arts Venue, Tourism and Events Queensland



Attachment 2

The technical reports detailing the analysis methodology for each indicator are available upon request. The links below provide access to further information of partner agencies' strategic policy documents that have relevance to the *Healthy Places, Healthy People* initiative and the development of reported indicators.

Queensland Health:

The [Queensland preventive health survey](#) website provides further information about the QHPS including how it is conducted, how the information is used, and how results are reported in the Queensland survey analytic system (QSAS).

Department of Transport and Main Roads:

Annex: *Healthy Places, Healthy People* – Data Analysis 2020. Department of Transport and Main Roads Indicators.

For further information regarding:

- [Queensland Transport Strategy](#)
- [Queensland Walking Strategy](#)
- [Queensland Cycling Strategy](#)

Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport:

Annex: *Healthy Places, Healthy People* – Data Analysis 2020. Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport Indicators.

For further information regarding:

- [Activate! Queensland Strategy 2019-2029](#)
- [Sports Planning Tool](#)

Queensland Police Service:

Annex: *Healthy Places, Healthy People* – Data Analysis 2020. Queensland Police Service Indicators.

For further information regarding:

- [Online crime map](#)
- [Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.](#)



Image acknowledgment: Victoria Park Vision. Brisbane City Council, Lat27



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