



news



HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENTS PROGRAM

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A Word from the Co-Directors

Once again it has been a busy year for the HBEP. We have made great progress across our three strategic areas: Research, Leadership and Advocacy and Education and Workforce Development. Some of the major highlights of 2011 include the publication of Literature Review, workforce development seminars which incorporated visiting international experts such as Professor Hugh Barton, and Dr Rodney Tolley, and the participation of the HBEP in state and national public planning consultations such as the Review of the NSW Planning System, and the National Urban Policy, respectively. Full details of our achievements this year will be released in our Annual Report due out in 2012. Meanwhile, we would like to thank you for your support throughout the year and wish you a very happy festive season and New Year.

Changes at the HBEP

There are two changes to announce which will affect the HBEP in the New Year. Firstly, A/Professor Susan Thompson will assume the title of 'HBEP Director' and Professor Tony Capon's title will be changed to 'HBEP Strategic Advisor'. This will better reflect the structure of the HBEP and the allocation of HBEP responsibilities to date. Secondly, Ms Joanna York is leaving the HBEP to take on a community services role in Katherine, NT. We would like to thank her for efforts during her time at the HBEP and wish her the best for her future endeavours. We will announce any further changes to the HBEP team shortly.

Submission to Planning System Review

The NSW Government is undertaking a comprehensive review of the NSW Planning System. The Review process commenced in July 2011 with extensive consultations across the state. The HBEP's submission to the first phase of the Review emphasised the need to consider human health and wellbeing during all stages of the planning system. It referred heavily to the findings of the HBEP Literature Review (<http://www.be.unsw.edu.au/healthy-built-environments-program/publications>). The next phase of the Review will focus on an Issues Paper covering the ideas and feedback received during the initial consultation phase. More information on the Review, including a full list of submissions, can be found here: <http://planningreview.nsw.gov.au/Home/tabid/77/Default.aspx>.

SOAC Conference and Report

The State of Australian Cities (SOAC) Conference took place from 29 November to 2 December in Melbourne. This biannual Conference investigates the complex and multi-dimensional issues facing Australia's urban centres. Click here for more information: <http://soac2011.com.au/welcome.php>. Co-Director Thompson co-authored four conference papers for SOAC, presenting one titled "Supporting Human Health: Focusing Effective Built Environment Interventions". These papers will be made available on the HBEP website.

The 2011 SOAC Report has been released by the Major Cities Unit. It extensively quotes the HBEP's Literature Review: (<http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure/mcu/soac.aspx>).

Please note: we have not included our usual section "What's New on the HBEP website". This is because the Faculty of Built Environment has launched a new website which has resulted in some teething problems for our website (<http://www.be.unsw.edu.au/programmes/healthy-built-environments-program/about>). Please email us directly (hbep@unsw.edu.au) if you are having any difficulties accessing information.