

Dear Parliamentary Inquiry Secretariat,

I am writing in relation to the *Parliamentary Inquiry into the contribution of environmental design to prevention and public health in Victoria*.

The Healthy Built Environments Program at the University of NSW has recently completed a major scholarly literature review examining the role of the built environment in supporting human health as part of everyday living. Titled, *Healthy Built Environments: A review of the literature*, its principal aim is to establish an evidence base that supports the development, prioritisation and implementation of healthy built environment policies and practices. The Review also identifies current gaps in the evidence to inform future research directions.

The focus of the Review is on the three key built environment domains that support human health:

1. The Built Environment and Getting People Active.
2. The Built Environment and Connecting and Strengthening Communities.
3. The Built Environment and Providing Healthy Food Options.

These built environment domains address three of the major risk factors for contemporary chronic disease - physical inactivity, social isolation and obesity.

I trust that you will find the Literature Review to be of benefit in your current Parliamentary Inquiry. It also includes an annotated bibliography of key research articles and a glossary of terms to assist practitioners, policy makers and researchers working in this interdisciplinary realm. The Literature Review can be downloaded from the Healthy Built Environments web site (publications page) at:  
<http://www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/cf/hbep/publications/>.

Please note that the full citation for the Literature Review is:

Kent J; Thompson SM and Jalaludin B (2011) *Healthy Built Environments: A review of the literature*, Sydney: Healthy Built Environments Program, City Futures Research Centre, UNSW. ISBN: 978-0-7334-3046-6

Please let me know if you would like a paper copy of the Review and I will forward it to you. We are most interested in the Inquiry and look forward to hearing from you on its findings.

Best regards,

Susan Thompson



**SUSAN THOMPSON**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CO-DIRECTOR

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