

E3 Pedestrian planning and design resources

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Purpose

The purpose of this module is to provide council managers with planning and design resources that will enable them to plan and construct better pedestrian facilities.

Introduction

Pedestrian planning and design is closely related to urban local planning and design. Numerous manuals provide guidance on planning urban developments. The WA publication *Liveable neighbourhoods* is a guide to sustainable urban development. It is undergoing extensive trialling with local government.

This document can be found at <http://www.wapc.wa.gov.au/publications/liveable/liveable.html>.

E3.1 Planning and urban design

Design manuals

Various standards and guidelines are available for the design of urban infrastructure. Several documents that are relevant to pedestrians include, but are not limited to, the following:

Austrroads 1995, 'Part 13: Pedestrians', *Guide to traffic engineering practice*, Austrroads, Sydney,

http://www.onlinepublications.austrroads.com.au/script/Details.asp?DocN=AR0000005_1004.

Main Roads 2002, *Traffic and road use management manual*, 1st edn, September 2002, Queensland Department of Main Roads, Brisbane.

Queensland Transport 1999, *Australian road rules*, Queensland Transport, Brisbane, [http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/qt/driver.nsf/files/images/\\$file/RoadRules.pdf](http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/qt/driver.nsf/files/images/$file/RoadRules.pdf).

Urban design

The concept of walkability has been developed to describe how pedestrian-friendly a place is. The US Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Centre has developed a 'walkability checklist' to assist in assessing a neighbourhood's walkability and to suggest ways of improving its pedestrian attractiveness.

This resource can be found at <http://www.walkinginfo.org/cps/checklist.htm>.

Shaping up from Queensland Transport is a guide to the better practice and integration of transport, land use and urban design techniques. These guidelines also emphasise the importance of making public transport, walking and cycling more attractive than car travel. Better designed neighbourhoods will offer the lifestyle benefits of reduced car dependency and increased access to local activities.

The second edition of the document can be found at [http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/qt/tpSite.nsf/ReferenceLookup/ShapingUpWeb.pdf/\\$file/ShapingUpWeb.pdf](http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/qt/tpSite.nsf/ReferenceLookup/ShapingUpWeb.pdf/$file/ShapingUpWeb.pdf).



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The *Public spaces and public life*, City of Adelaide (2002) report by Jan Gehl, Danish architect and 'place maker', provides a range of urban design guidelines that enhance the pedestrian environment and encourage people to walk more. This report is particularly relevant for those activity centres where walking is the primary form of access. This resource can be found at <http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/council/publications/Reports/public_spaces_public_life.pdf>.

Additional resources and documents by Jan Gehl can be found at <<http://www.pps.org/info/placemakingtools/placemakers/jjgehl>>.

Healthy by design: a planners' guide to environments for active living has been developed by the Heart Foundation (Victorian Division) in response to local government requests for practical guidance in designing walkable and ultimately more liveable communities.

More information is available from the website <<http://www.heartfoundation.com.au/index.cfm?page=422>>.

New Urban News is a newsletter for planners, developers, architects, builders, public officials and others who are interested in creating human-scale communities. The newsletter and related information can be found at the website <<http://www.newurbannews.com>>.

Program evaluation and monitoring

Measuring walking levels is a critical part of evaluating and monitoring a walking program.

The *National Physical Activity Survey* developed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 1999 details the nationally recognised method of measuring walking levels in populations. This survey assessed participation in physical activity among Australian adults using a computer-aided telephone interviewing (CATI) system. The survey found that the basis of physical activity measurement is the integration of information on intensity, frequency, duration and type of physical activity forms.

This resource is available at <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/5944>>.

E3.2 People with disabilities

The Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* requires that non-discriminatory access for people with disabilities be provided by places to which the public have access. 'Non-discriminatory' is broadly defined as not placing more onerous requirements for access on people with disabilities; access should also, as far as possible, be independent, rather than assisted.

Standards developed under the Act are mandatory, unless a specific exemption is granted. Accessible Public Transport standards and the Building Code of Australia incorporate the requirements for disability access and provide useful guidance for pedestrian facilities.

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* is administered by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. Up-to-date information on disability access requirements and resources can be found at <http://www.hreoc.gov.au/disability_rights/index.html>.

Most states also have legislation governing disability access to services and facilities. State government advice on disability access may be obtained from the following agencies:

- ▶ Disability Services Queensland
- ▶ WA Disability Services Commission
- ▶ NSW Ageing and Disability Department
- ▶ Victorian Government Disability Online.

Some planning and design documents that offer standards and guidelines for the provision of walking facilities and services for people with disabilities are:

- ▶ Standards Australia 1998, Australian Standards 1428.3 – Part 3: Requirements for children and adolescents with physical disabilities
- ▶ Attorney-General's Department 1996, *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport with Guidelines*, Attorney-General's Department, Canberra
- ▶ PPK Environment & Infrastructure 1999, *Bus stop style guide*, State Transit Authority, Sydney
- ▶ PPK Environment & Infrastructure 1998, *Access for people with mobile disabilities: manual of best practice*, Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils Limited, Sydney.

