

E4 People and skills and walking group contacts

Contents

- E4.1 Council pedestrian planners
- E4.2 Community groups
- E4.3 Walking group contacts

Purpose

The purpose of this module is to identify people who have experience in developing and implementing walking programs, and to provide contact details of walking groups in Australia and overseas. These groups have a variety of resources for walking, as well as links to additional sources of information. Also contained in this module is a link to a training toolkit from *TravelSmart*.

Introduction

In Australia, there are, as yet, few people whose primary responsibility is to promote walking as a means of transport. Even fewer have been trained to understand walking and the needs of pedestrians in the broader transport context.

Most people involved in transport policy and planning still come from the traditional disciplines of engineering, planning and economics. These are often determinist disciplines, in which past experience and behaviour is used to provide a strong guide to future planning directions and outcomes.

Some may be less comfortable in dealing with new directions for which the past is not a guide to the future.

The transport policy and planning profession is, however, at a watershed, with a large proportion of members, many from the 'traditional' disciplines, approaching retirement. The new generation of transport professionals is being drawn from a much wider range of disciplines, including the behavioural sciences¹. This generation will need to draw on the extensive experience, especially analytical skills, of their predecessors to influence resource allocation decisions in transport and in government generally.

E4.1 Council pedestrian planners

While there are few dedicated council-based pedestrian/cycling officers within Queensland, several councils have developed pedestrian and/or cycling plans. These councils may be able to provide walking or cycling strategy documents, or have officers who can provide information or assistance in the development of a walking strategy. Queensland councils with pedestrian and/or cycling plans include:

- ▶ Brisbane City Council (07) 3403 8888
- ▶ Redland Shire Council (07) 3829 8999
- ▶ Ipswich City Council (07) 3810 6666
- ▶ Hervey Bay City Council (07) 4197 4444
- ▶ Caloundra City Council (07) 5420 8200
- ▶ Toowoomba City Council (07) 4688 6611

¹Ker, I R and Chambers, L 1998, 'Professional development in the age of the new realism: an inclusive approach to an eclectic future', Proceedings of 22nd Australasian Transport Research Forum, Sydney. (Paper is available electronically, with PowerPoint update, from iank@arb.com.au.)



- ▶ Johnstone Shire Council (07) 4030 2222
- ▶ Burnett Shire Council (07) 4150 5400
- ▶ Cooloolo Shire Council (07) 5481 0800.

E4.2 Community groups

Regional youth affairs officers maintain strong networks with community groups and can provide information and strategies for connecting with these groups. Contact details for these officers are:

- ▶ Central Office 1300 555 954
- ▶ Greater Brisbane (07) 3872 0587
- ▶ Gold Coast (07) 3872 0018
- ▶ Wide Bay – Burnett (07) 4121 1773
- ▶ Darling Downs/South West Queensland (07) 4687 2872
- ▶ Fitzroy/Central Queensland (07) 4938 4317
- ▶ North Queensland (07) 4760 7902
- ▶ Far North Queensland (07) 4039 8049.

TravelSmart officer training

The federal *TravelSmart* website has a toolkit that provides guidelines for training *TravelSmart* officers, who are at the forefront of implementing initiatives to manage travel demand at the local level. The modules demonstrate how travel demand management addresses our transport problems, explain what influences people to travel the way they do, promote alternatives to single occupancy in vehicles, and influence others to deliver *TravelSmart* programs. This toolkit is available from the national *TravelSmart* website <<http://www.travelsmart.gov.au/training/index.html>>.

Additional resources

Department of Premier and Cabinet 2003, *Engaging Queenslanders: community engagement in the business of government*, Queensland Government, Brisbane.

Community Engagement Unit 2003, *A guide to effective community engagement*, Strategic and Executive Services Department of Emergency Services, Queensland Government, Brisbane.

Department of Conservation and Land Management 2005, *Public participation*, Department of Conservation and Land Management, Perth, viewed 3 March 2005, <http://www.calm.wa.gov.au/calm_public_participation.html>. Western Australia Department of Conservation and Land Management's

public participation policy and 10 public participation principles.

Department of the Premier and Cabinet 2001, *Community Engagement Division directions statement*, Department of Communities, Brisbane, viewed 3 March 2005, <<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/community/publications/documents/pdf/CEDDirectionsStatement.pdf>>. Community Engagement Division works with government agencies and communities across the state to explore and implement effective ways of working together on local solutions.

Department of Human Services 2005, *Primary care partnerships*, Department of Human Resources, Melbourne, viewed 3 March 2005, <<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pcps>>. The Primary Care Partnership (PCP) Strategy.

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources 2004, *Community engagement in the NSW planning system*, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, Sydney, viewed 3 March 2005, <<http://www.iplan.nsw.gov.au/engagement/index.jsp>>. This site provides a comprehensive list of resources and suggestions, including a five-step engagement planning cycle and an alphabetical list of techniques that adds to the above list.

Maroochy Shire Council 2003, *Public participation manual*, Maroochy Shire Council, Sunshine Coast, Queensland, viewed 3 March 2005, <http://www.maroochy.qld.gov.au/ppp/ppp_manual.pdf>. Maroochy Shire Council was recently a sponsor of the 2004 International Association for Public Participation – Queensland State Conference. A comprehensive public participation manual outlining their policies and processes is available online.

E4.3 Walking group contacts

Pedestrian Council of Australia

The principal walking stakeholder organisation in Australia is the Pedestrian Council of Australia, whose role is one of education, advocacy, and the promotion of a culture of concern and care within the whole community for the rights and responsibilities of pedestrians. More information on the Pedestrian Council of Australia is provided in section E5.3 *Physical activity* resources. Further details can be obtained from their website <<http://www.walk.com.au>>.

Western Australia Walking Advisory Council

Western Australia has established a Walking Advisory Council to promote strategies to increase walking in Western Australia. Further details on the Western Australia Walking Advisory Council can be found on their website <<http://www.dpi.wa.gov.au/walking/advisory.html>>.

Other contacts

At other levels, community-based walking organisations are less well developed than bicycle user groups. The walking coordinators listed in E2.1 *Pedestrian coordinators* provide a starting point for organisations to contact for information or assistance in pedestrian planning. Another organisation that is more active at the policy, planning and promotion level is the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transport Institute of Australasia (PedBikeTrans) <<http://www.pedbiketras.asn.au/>>.

