



WHY IS HEALTH AN ISSUE FOR OUR CITIES?



As Australia faces increasing health costs from rising rates of obesity, diabetes and other lifestyle diseases, health workers are seeking to influence the design of cities to make them more supportive of healthy ways of living. Research continues to demonstrate the links between modern health epidemics and the way of life in cities. Car-dominated transport, reduced opportunities for physical activity, increased fast-food availability and lack of social connection are all implicated. Increasingly the health sector is focusing on prevention. To be effective, health professionals need to work in collaboration with other professional groups, especially those from the built environment.



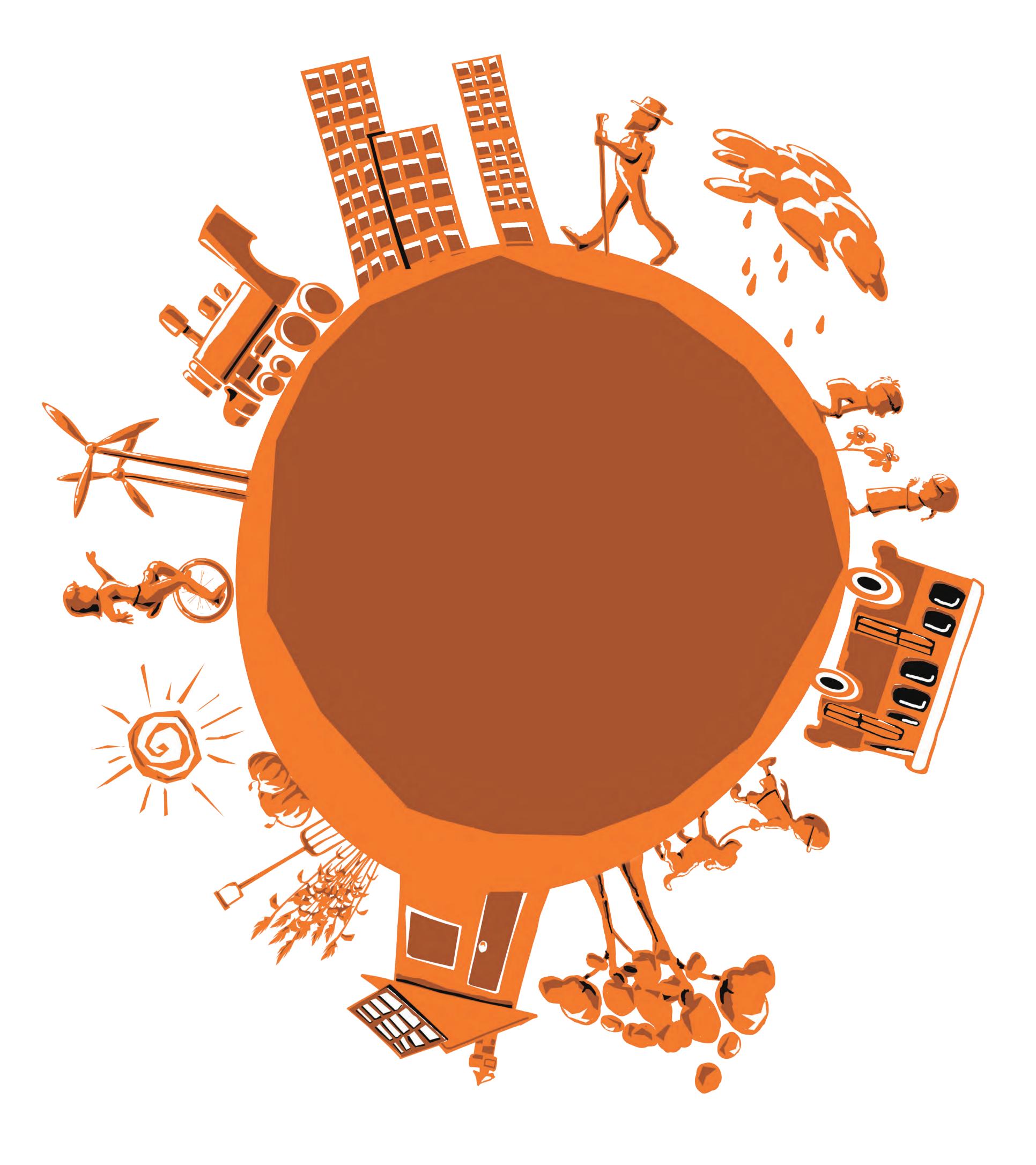
WHAT IS THE HBEP?



The HBEP is all about working collaboratively with health professionals so that together we can create built environments that support people being healthy in their everyday lives. The HBEP is part of the City Futures Research Centre at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). We receive our core funding from the NSW Department of Health.

Our vision is that built environments will be planned, designed, developed and managed to promote and protect health for all people.





FURTHER INFORMATION



Visit the HBEP's website to find out lots more about our work:

http://www.be.unsw.edu.au/programmes/healthy-built-environments-program/about

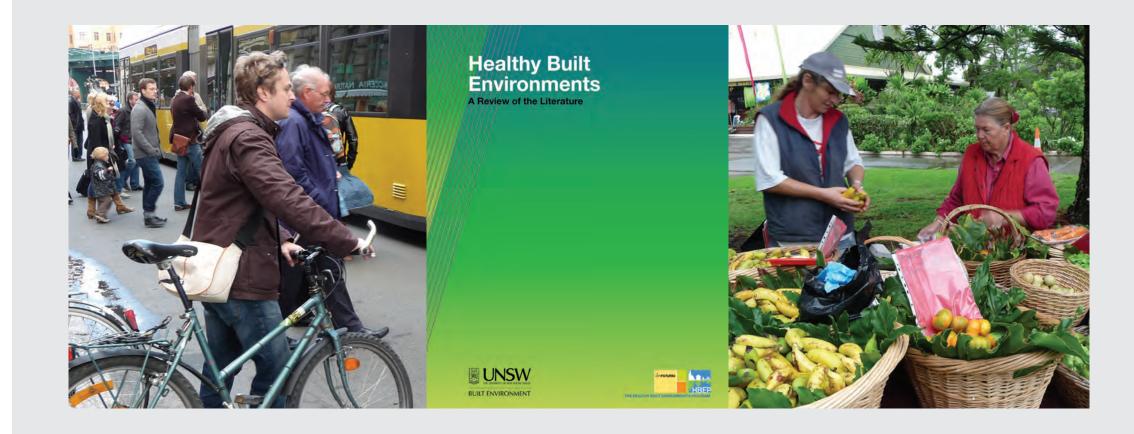
WHAT DO WE DO?



The HBEP aims to support the development of healthy communities in NSW, now and into the future, by ensuring that the built environment promotes good health for everyone. This is achieved through three core strategies:

Research

The HBEP fosters interdisciplinary research which is policy relevant. We recently completed a major review of scholarly literature on the role of the built environment in supporting human health. The review discusses the research evidence that supports the development, prioritisation and implementation of healthy built environment policies and practices.



Leadership and Advocacy

We advocate for closer links between health and the built environment across government and non-government agencies, the private sector and the general community. We write scholarly publications to disseminate the latest research on healthy built environments. We also write regular columns in professional journals, contribute to the popular media, give talks and hold promotional events.



Education and Workforce Development

The HBEP delivers innovative, cross-disciplinary education and capacity building. We run inter-disciplinary courses on healthy built environments for undergraduate and postgraduate students at UNSW, hold regular public forums, and host seminars for professionals working in health and urban planning. The HBEP is also developing e-learning resources on a variety of topics.



