



Annie Kentwell
Heart Foundation

Incorporating Active Living Principles into Statutory Planning

The vision for Canberra is to be a healthy, active city that is well connected, compact and equitable. To deliver this, the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government has implemented specific changes to its statutory plan, the “Territory Plan”, to mandate the inclusion of active living principles into all developments.

The Heart Foundation, ACT Government, industry and university sector worked together to define six active living principles. A line-by-line gap analysis was then undertaken identifying potential changes within the Territory Plan.

Out of sixty-three recommendations, forty-five were ratified through Territory Plan Variation 348: Incorporating Active Living into the Territory Plan through the following seven broad categories:

- Revise the Statement of Strategic Directions;
- Incorporate Active Living Principles into all zone objectives;
- Amend the relevant rules and criteria in all zones;
- Include character statements in Precinct Codes to support active living;
- Review and update General Codes that relate to active living;
- Include active living terminology within the Territory Plan Definitions; and
- Amend the relevant rules and criteria in the Estate Development Code.

There are three crucial lessons in incorporating active living into statutory planning.

Firstly, collaboration between government and non-government organisations is an effective tool for implementing change.

Secondly, skilful advocates supported by strong evidence, need to build ongoing trusting relationships with key decision makers to effect change.

Thirdly, there is an appetite to fight chronic disease through changes to the built environment and codification is seen by politicians and planners as readily available, effective and an implementable tool to achieve this.

This workshop will explore the project’s methodology with the aim of assisting practitioners to learn from, and explore avenues within their jurisdiction/s and tiers of government to pursue and achieve similar outcomes.