

Inner Sydney VOICE

SPRING 2014 • ISSUE 122

HOW DESIGN
CAN PROMOTE
INCLUSIVENESS
AND IMPROVE
QUALITY OF LIFE
FOR THE WHOLE
COMMUNITY



UNIVERSAL DESIGN

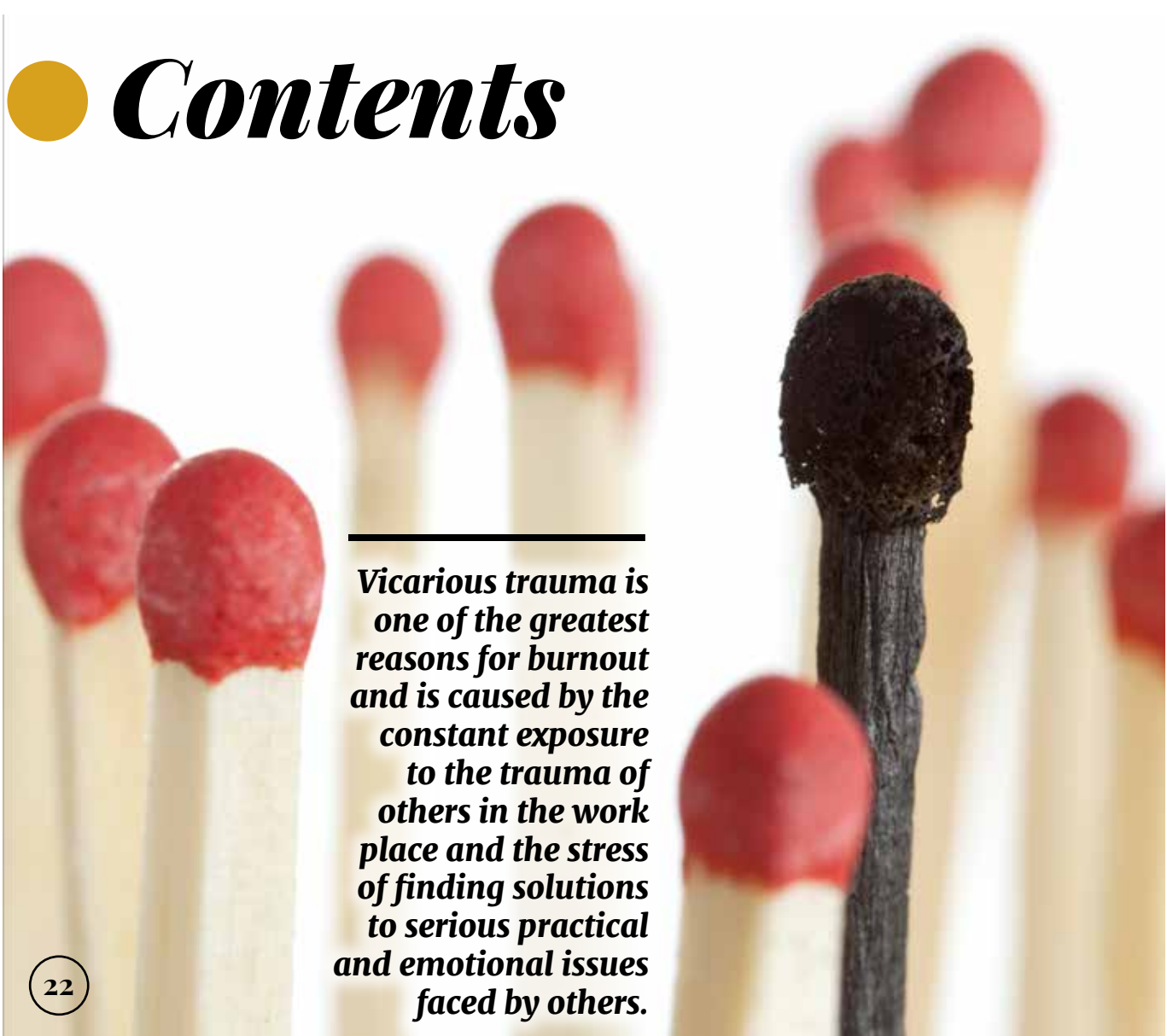
+PLUS

STOPPING BURNOUT
INNER CITY POPULATION
PROJECTIONS

PLANNING FOR PEOPLE CHARTER
MILLERS POINT
CHOICE BASED LETTING

REMEMBERING BISHOP
JOHN MCINTYRE
COMMUNITY DRUG ACTION TEAMS

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Vicarious trauma is one of the greatest reasons for burnout and is caused by the constant exposure to the trauma of others in the workplace and the stress of finding solutions to serious practical and emotional issues faced by others.

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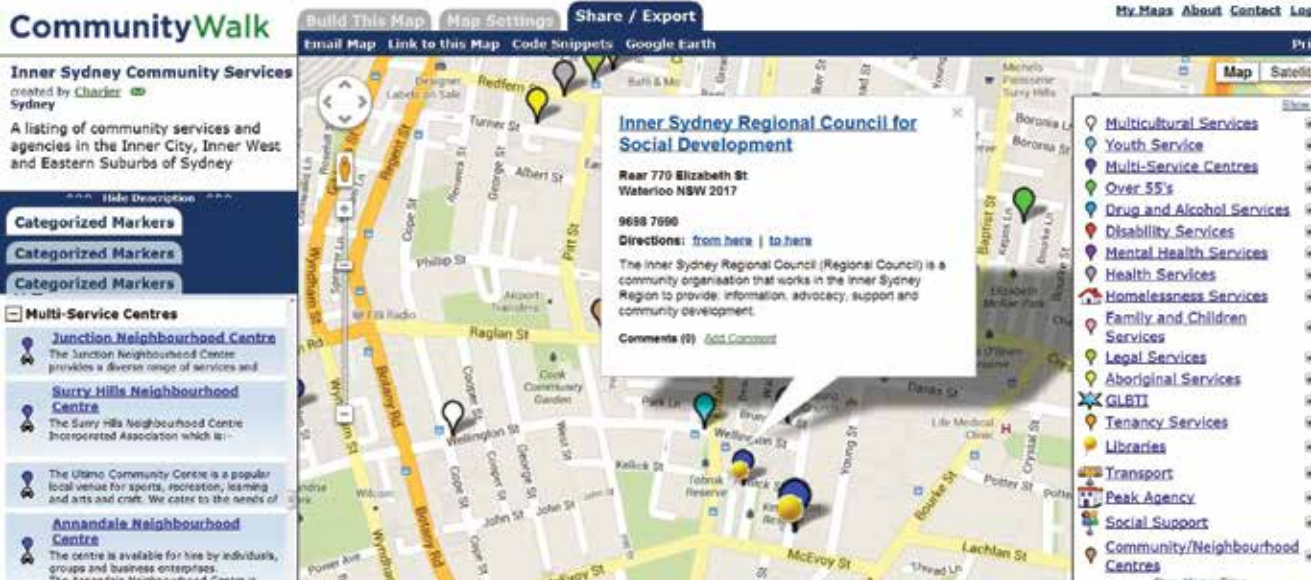
Cover Story:

Designing products and environments for the whole community seems a simple idea but there has been a slow uptake in creating this inclusion in Australia



Online community services map is live!

Find community services in the eastern suburbs and inner city.



Check out the link on our website www.innersydney.org.au
 To add or update service listings please email admin@innersydneyrcsd.org.au

INNER SYDNEY REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT INVITES YOU TO THEIR 38TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 21st October 2014 4.30pm
Redfern Town Hall, 73 Pitt St, Redfern

The AGM will be followed by End of Year Celebrations

Nominations for Board close October 7th 2014.
 Nomination forms available from char.jones@innersydneyrcsd.org.au

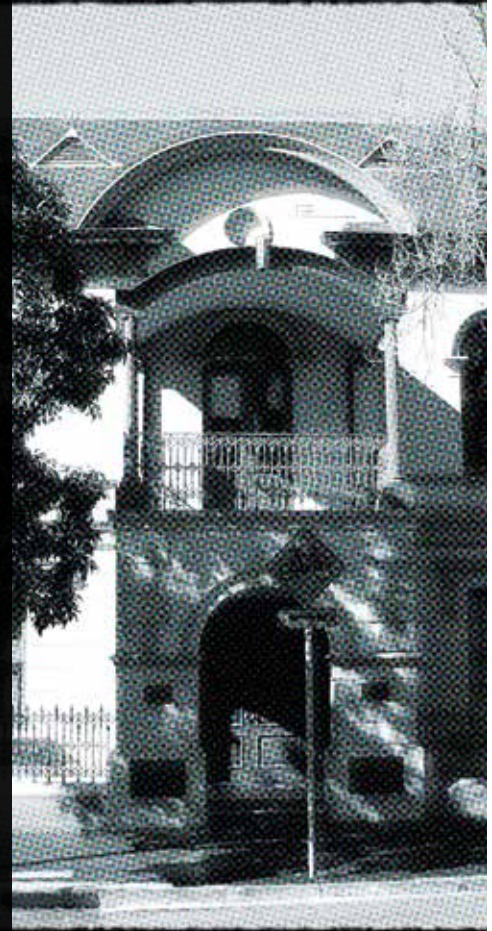
Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development (ISRCSD) is a regional peak community organisation that works in the Inner Sydney and Eastern Suburbs region providing Non-Government Organisations, Not-for-Profits, community groups and individuals with information, advocacy and support, and community development opportunities.

WE ADVOCATE for and represent community organisations and residents to government and other relevant organisations.

WE ASSIST communities, organisations and individuals to take action to address their issues and needs. Community development philosophies underpin all of our activities.

WE BELIEVE in Social Justice, Social Inclusion and the participation and empowerment of local people.

For more detail on ISRCSD's activities see page 28





**INNER SYDNEY
REGIONAL COUNCIL**
FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

ABOUT

Inner Sydney Voice is the journal of the Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development Inc; a non-profit organisation committed to the idea of information as a tool for community development. The organisation defines Inner Sydney as being the local government areas of Botany Bay, Leichhardt, Randwick, City of Sydney, Waverley and Woollahra.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional custodians of the lands across the areas we service, particularly the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, traditional custodians of the land on which our office is located. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present.

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Join and Subscribe

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Editorial

One of the advantages of working in an organisation across a range of different services and communities is the opportunity to join the dots across a range of issues.

The inner city building boom is constructing the homes people will occupy for decades to come. But will they more easily accommodate the aged and less able, and be easily modified to allow people to live in their homes as circumstances change? Or will they recreate the problems of the past?

In Millers Point some public tenants are being removed from heritage homes because their homes have stairs and are expensive to maintain and modify. Public housing built in the last few years, such as Walker Street Redfern, still has stair access to their entrances and the section for the aged has obstacles that stop tenants in wheelchairs enjoying their balconies.

Accessibility is not just about homes for those with a disability, injury or frailty; it is also about how they can visit their friends and family. It is about places that are suitable for all people at all stages of life. Stairs provide the same obstacle to the parent loaded down with shopping and a pram as they do to the wheelchair or the wheeler. So coinciding with the inaugural Australian Universal Design Conference we explore *Universal Design – Creating Inclusion for Everyone* (page 6).

Also joining the dots, whether you are interested in how service needs are likely to change or where all the new houses are going to go, is the *Changing Face of the Inner City* (page 12) which explores the inner Sydney population projections to 2031 and the methodology behind them.

Community, resident, heritage and environment groups have also joined the dots in an attempt to define more clearly what these groups want from the planning system. You can read about this charter that ISRCSD helped produce in *Planning for People – A Community Charter for Good Planning in NSW* (page 24).

Two articles grow out of our ongoing Millers Point concerns. We explore the *Choice Based Letting* process being used (page 20) and the differences between the US and Australian social housing in *From Public Housing to Vouchers* (page 19).

We also explain the Neighbourhood Advisory Boards (NABs) that function in the inner city in *Giving Public Tenants a Voice* (page 16). This includes case studies on the establishment of the first NABs in Redfern and Waterloo and of a great community outcome from the Woolloomooloo NAB.

Shane Brown has a long history in youth work. His article on *Stopping Burnout* is relevant to community organisations, workers and volunteers.

In this issue we also remember the contribution to ISRCSD, Redfern Waterloo and the community more broadly of Bishop John McIntyre in *Valé John Mac* (page 27).

Charmaine Jones explores the tensions in *Community Drug Action Teams – Condone or Condemn?* (page 16) and also provides an overview of the publisher of *Inner Sydney Voice* in *What is Inner Sydney Regional Council?* (page 28).

In *From the Vaults* we revisit *Eveleigh Plans* from 35 years ago in light of the latest UrbanGrowth NSW Central to Eveleigh Concept Plan (page 31).

Charmaine Jones & Geoff Turnbull,

Co-editors Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development

“Accessibility is not just about homes for those with a disability, injury or frailty; it is also about how they can visit their friends and family”

UNIVERSAL DESIGN: CREATING INCLUSION FOR EVERYONE

DESIGNING PRODUCTS AND ENVIRONMENTS FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY SEEMS A SIMPLE IDEA BUT THERE HAS BEEN A SLOW UPTAKE IN CREATING THIS INCLUSION IN AUSTRALIA. JANE BRINGOLF EXPLAINS THE PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN AND EXPLORES SOME MYTHS PREVENTING ITS WIDER ACCEPTANCE IN HOUSING AND PUBLIC SPACES.



Why do people trip over shower hobs, stumble over thresholds, stub their toe at the bathroom door, get their luggage stuck in an automatic gate, catch their sleeve on a door knob, struggle up steps with strollers and shopping trolleys, camp out in the living room for a month because they can't get upstairs, or break their heel on a grating? Why can't people find a toilet when they need it, remember where they parked the car, turn on the tap or open a blister pack?

WHAT IS UNIVERSAL DESIGN?

Universal design is a simple idea: it is a proposition that products and environments should be designed with the whole

population in mind. It is a design process that seeks to improve human performance, maintain wellness, and encourage social participation and interaction. Designing universally creates things that are easier to use by the widest number of people recognising that diversity is a key part of being human.

At first glance designing universally seems reasonable – why exclude people by design? After all, the more people who can use an item, the more there are to purchase or use it. While universal design is considered a 'good idea' by many, this has been insufficient to change design processes in any significant way. The question is, why? But first, a little background.

The notion of universal design is not new; the term was coined in the mid-1970s when wheelchair-users advocating for barrier-free environments realised that barrier-free designs were good for everyone. Other groups found barrier-free environments useful: parents with prams and small children, older people, pregnant women, and people of short stature, among others. It creates places and spaces that are welcoming for locals and visitors alike. It was from this realisation that the Center for Universal Design was set up within the North Carolina State University in the late 1980s. Since that time other countries have set up similar centres and the

universal design movement is now a global endeavour, and the concept has been expanded to include product design, information and communications technology, and learning strategies. However, Australia is lagging behind in this regard.

ACCESSIBLE, ADAPTABLE, OR UNIVERSAL?

One of the issues for those who'd like to see greater uptake of universal design is mistaken identity. The term 'universal design' is not understood in the same way by everyone. A range of terms are used alongside and in place of it: accessible, adaptable, seniors, and even 'disabled' design, and we can add universal access to the list as well.

Each of these terms has a specific meaning in the construction industry because they relate to certain standards or regulations. However, all these terms get thrown together and used interchangeably because they are seen as being specifically for older people and people with disability.

'Accessible' relates to access and mobility standards for public buildings and multi-dwelling developments. These are referenced by the National Construction Code (formerly the Building Code of Australia). 'Adaptable' relates to housing design and the Adaptable Housing Standard is variously applied to what is often called 'Seniors Housing'. 'Disabled' is unfortunately wrongly applied to features such as ramps, entrances, toilets and parking places. They are usually functional and not disabled in the strict definition of the word, so they should be labelled accessible. However, architectural drawings often contain labels of 'disabled toilets' and 'disability ramp' and so the language of exclusion continues to be perpetuated – the language applied to 'the others'.

The one term that covers everyone is universal design, as its purpose is to be mainstream design. In Europe it is called 'design for all' and this is an apt description and translates well. Nevertheless, some things are better

THE LIVABLE HOUSING DESIGN GUIDELINES HAVE SEVEN CORE ELEMENTS:

- A safe continuous and step free path of travel from the street entrance and / or parking area to a dwelling entrance that is level
- At least one, level (step-free) entrance into the dwelling
- Internal doors and corridors that facilitate comfortable and unimpeded movement between spaces
- A toilet on the ground (or entry) level that provides easy access
- A bathroom that contains a hobless (step-free) shower recess
- Reinforced walls around the toilet, shower and bath to support the safe installation of grabrails at a later date
- A continuous handrail on one side of any stairway where there is a rise of more than one metre

FOR EXTRA CONVENIENCE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- Sufficient space in the bedroom to allow someone with a wheeled walking aid to get around the bed and reach the wardrobe space
- Kitchens with drawer storage instead of cupboards for easy access to everything and space to manoeuvre with a mobility device
- Colour contrast between walls and floors, and kitchen benches and floors to aid with visual perception
- Switches and controls at heights that minimise bending and reaching
- Lever handles and D handles for easy grasping, and power points around knee height to save bending to skirting boards
- In two storey homes, consider creating space for a through-floor lift which can be installed at a later date (at around the cost of the stamp duty when selling a home)



Accessible public domain

“A wheelchair is of little use when confronted with a flight of steps, and a ramped entrance is of little use to a paraplegic without a wheelchair – we need both universal design and assistive technology”



KEY ELEMENTS OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR PUBLIC PLACES AND SPACES

- A continuous path of travel along the street with footpaths containing no steps or overhanging shrubs and trees, and with gently sloping kerb ramps at every crossing point
- Pedestrian crossings with refuge islands wide enough to take a mobility scooter or two people with wheeled walking devices or a baby stroller
- Good wayfinding signals with signage that has good colour contrast and simple lettering (not fancy or heritage style)
- Public toilets that are clean and useable and placed at suitable places
- Seating for resting and also placed to encourage informal social interaction
- Lighting, not just at night, but in places that highlight signage or notices so that people can see and read them
- Information about transport that is in a size and font that people with low vision can read

understood by what they are not, and universal design falls into that category. This is because there are very few ways of explaining the concept of inclusion without listing who is excluded.

While ‘accessible’ designs relate mainly to public environments, ‘adaptable’ designs relate specifically to housing. The Adaptable Housing Standard was devised in 1995 and has not been revised since. Many local councils call up this voluntary Standard for ‘seniors’ developments as it is a recognised Standards Australia document. This is in spite of some features being costly, difficult to achieve, or inappropriate as design ideas have moved on over the last 20 years. The good news is that a more workable document has been devised for housing, the *Livable Housing Design Guidelines* produced by Livable Housing Australia. The Guidelines are underpinned by universal design principles and incorporate the most important accessible and adaptable features.

LIVABLE HOUSING DESIGN

The aim of the Livable Housing Australia is that all new housing should

be designed to the Guidelines so that the features eventually become mainstream. These guidelines acknowledge that we cannot keep building homes that do not support people who want to stay put as they age or acquire a disability, and that we cannot continue to fund home modifications from the public purse for everyone that needs it.

MYTHS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS

We can talk about designing for all people regardless of age, capability or background – but this concept is then framed within current experience which is to start thinking about those who are most often excluded, older people, and people with disability. Consequently, it becomes ‘disabled’ design in the minds of the uninitiated. When this happens, people then start to think of specialised designs – those separate ramped entrances, separate toilets and parking places all labelled ‘disabled’. For older people, thoughts turn to specialised and segregated living units and special ‘seniors’ events and centres. This in turn



Opposite page: Paths that suit all users
(Image courtesy Dr Jane Bringolf)

Centre: Bicycles don't like stairs either
(Image courtesy Dr Jane Bringolf)

This page: Glazed doors and low sills help to connect the inside with the outside
(Image courtesy Landcom)

“Universal design is around us – we only notice when it is not there – when we have to lift the baby stroller or the suitcase at the train station to negotiate the steps, for example ”

creates myths and misunderstandings – here are just five myths.

Myth number 1: Only a few people would benefit, so we should not let their needs dictate. This myth derives from the notion that only wheelchair users benefit. However, anyone with wheels (bicycle, pram, trolley, luggage, or briefcase) has difficulty with paths of travel with steps and other obstacles. In addition, almost everyone will experience some form of disability in their lifetime, so while they may not need it now, they are most likely to need it in the future.

Myth number 2: Disability discrimination laws and associated standards are sufficient and so there is no need to do any more. These standards and regulations only address physical function in the public built environment whereas universal design also considers housing, the way people interpret information, use products and services, access information technology and access education services.

Myth number 3: Medical advances are reducing the incidence of disability, so the need for universal design will be

short lived. Unfortunately, sporting accidents and other types of accidents are on the rise. This is occurring in tandem with population ageing, where more people are expected to experience disability and reduced functioning as they grow older.

Myth number 4: Universal design costs even more than accessible design. If buildings are usable by everyone from the start then fewer renovations would be needed in the future, and any that were would be less expensive. Many features cost nothing, or are marginal at worst. Additionally, these features tend to have a value that exceeds their expense.

Myth number 5: Universal design is unattractive, no-one wants their home to look like a hospital. This myth is closely linked to notions of ‘disability’ design and a view that bathrooms need to look like accessible public toilets with lots of grab rails. There is no need to install grab rails in homes. However, reinforcement in bathroom walls is a good idea in case grab rails are needed at another time.

The other misunderstanding is that

universal design is a one-size-fits-all solution and therefore fits no-one. If we go back to the underpinning philosophy – inclusion – then there will be times when parallel solutions will be required. ATMs and public telephones at different heights are good examples. Designing universally challenges designers to be creative: it is not a process for limiting design. Some of the most useable products for everyone have come from this design challenge where users are put at the centre of the design process. A good example is the Oxo Good Grips range of kitchen utensils.

A PARADIGM SHIFT

Designing with the whole population in mind, not a section or sections of the population, requires a paradigm shift in design thinking because designers in all disciplines are taught to design either for a mythical normal population, or for specific niche groups. When creating a new product or building, designers should consider walking, balance, handling, pulling, pushing, lifting, reaching, physical



stamina and strength to perform some actions. However, universal design will not overcome all physical and sensory limitations and this is where specific technologies and products are needed for individuals. Put simply, a wheelchair is of little use when confronted with a flight of steps, and a ramped entrance is of little use to a paraplegic without a wheelchair – we need both universal design and assistive technology.

EXAMPLES

Images of universally designed environments are difficult to find and this is likely because a well-designed environment is seamless, so no special features stand out. Universal design is around us – we only notice when it is not there – when we have to lift the baby stroller or the suitcase at the train station to negotiate the steps, for example. Almost all shopping malls and shop entries within the mall are universally designed – everyone can enter with level access and automatic doors. Seating is usually placed at suitable intervals so that people can rest, there are toilets and elevators

everyone can use, parking nearby, and signage for finding our way. Some of these features may not be best practice in all cases, but compared to most street shopping precincts, shopping malls offer greater convenience and ease of use for everyone. Even so, entering your PIN into the EFTPOS device might be difficult if you have reduced hand function.

But where to from here? Australia is falling behind other developed nations in applying universal design principles across the full spectrum of design endeavours. Countries in Europe, UK, Ireland, India, Brazil and United States all have centres dedicated to educating, promoting and implementing the principles of universal design. In some countries universal design is a key element of their building code – Singapore is a good example. These are countries that recognise that social and economic inclusion has an individual and societal benefit. The more inclusive we become, the more previously excluded groups can participate in social and economic life: to get an education, a job, a home, and make a contribution to society and the economy.

A CENTRE FOR UNIVERSAL DESIGN

A good example of a centre for universal design is in Ireland, the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design – www.universaldesign.ie. It was set up in 2007 as a result of Ireland signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Australia signed at the same time. To ensure Ireland could fulfil its obligations under the Convention, they set up the centre with a statutory role to promote the achievement of excellence in universal design in the built environment, product design, and information and communications technologies. The centre also has a role in developing and promoting standards, education and professional development, and raising awareness of universal design.

Now is the time for Australia to have a similar centre to encourage designers to think more inclusively about the design of our housing, open spaces and public buildings. The aim of the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) is to enable people living with disability to achieve their social and economic



Opposite page: Universally designed bathrooms do not need to look institutional. (Image courtesy Landcom)

Centre: Level access from the footpath to the front door makes life easier for everyone. (Image courtesy Landcom)

This page: Homebush fountains in Sydney are easily accessible. (Image courtesy Dr Jane Bringolf)



potential, but many of our built environments pose time consuming inconveniences and outright obstructions to achieving this aim. Older people wish to stay put in their own home rather than move to institutional and specialised and segregated housing. Policies of ageing in place must be supported by policies that encourage continued social activity and participation, so that older people can get out and about, and continue to contribute socially and economically.

We already have universal design in housing in the sense that doors, windows, walls and roofs are all universal to every dwelling. What we don't have are a few design adjustments that would make the doorways, hallways and rooms more accessible. Architects and designers who understand the principles of universal design say that incorporating these features cost little more, if anything, to include in standard housing designs. However, the mass market house building companies have continued to resist the call for universal design in housing citing cost as the main reason. When challenged and

asked to specify the costs, they move to talking about steep sloping sites. However these are in the minority and are rare in new greenfield developments. The argument seems to be that if it can't be done in all sites then it can't be done anywhere. Nevertheless, industry has the skills and experience to create universally designed dwellings. The experience comes from applying the Adaptable Housing Standard to 'seniors' dwellings over the last ten years or so. These homes have level entries, suitably sized bathrooms and well organised kitchens. These features just need to be applied to all dwellings.

HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

While universal design proponents agree with the notion of healthy built environments, it should not be at the expense of inclusion. Healthy built environments are not just about minimising obesity, but about encouraging people of all ages and abilities to get out and about and enjoy public spaces and places. Hence, the recommendation of the deliberate placement of steps as an inducement to engage in exercise during active travel is problematic for people who cannot climb steps.

Steps will discourage and even prevent some people from utilising these spaces. Existing degenerative conditions, health issues, reduced mobility and parents with baby strollers are all compromised. Consideration should also be given to people moving around in family or friendship groups where the abilities of individuals may vary considerably. Consequently, the principle of equitable access for people with disability, which is part of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, is at risk of being compromised if one member has to take a different path of travel to a separate ramp because of the steps. Exercise and getting out and about on a level pathway is better than no exercise at all. Inclusively designed environments will ensure everyone gets a fair go at exercise.

Dr Jane Bringolf is a member of the City of Sydney Inclusion (Disability) Advisory Panel and is currently working for COTA NSW on Age Friendly Liveable Communities. COTA is the peak body representing people over 50. Jane chaired the organizing committee of the inaugural Universal Design Conference in Sydney in August 2014. She has previous community sector experience in Mid North Coast Regional Council for Social Development, neighbourhood centres and Home Care.



THE CHANGING FACE OF THE INNER CITY

NEW POPULATION, HOUSEHOLD AND DWELLING PROJECTIONS TO 2031 FOR NEW SOUTH WALES AND ALL NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS (LGAs) WERE RELEASED IN MAY 2014. DR KIM JOHNSTONE EXPLAINS WHAT THESE PROJECTIONS TELL US ABOUT THE CHANGING FACE OF INNER SYDNEY.

2014 NSW HOUSEHOLD & DWELLING PROJECTIONS

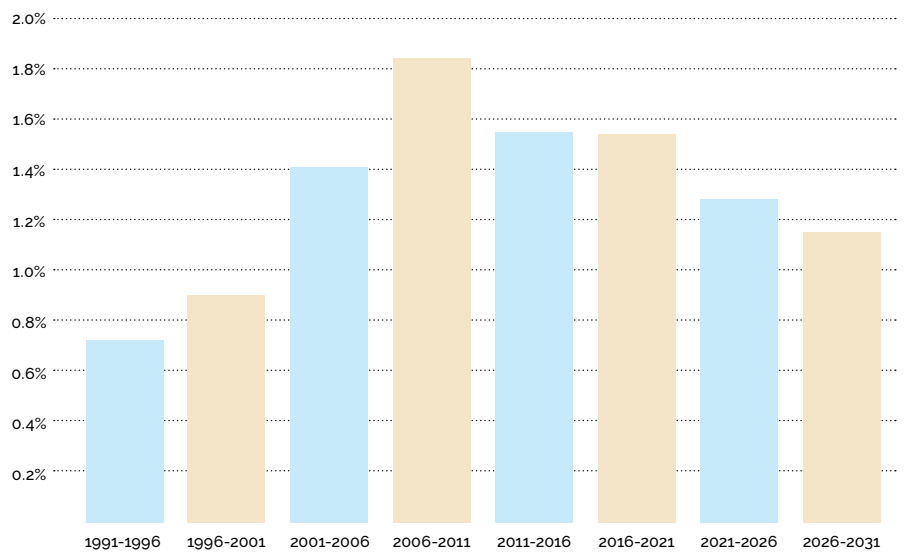
The projections indicate that New South Wales will grow by two million people between 2011 and 2031, with three-quarters of the growth taking place in Sydney. Sydney is projected to grow from 4.3 to 5.9 million people over the 20 years 2011 to 2031. Seventeen per cent of Sydney’s growth (267,000 people) is projected to be within the local government areas of Inner Sydney (see circle below for list of LGAs included here). This article focuses on the projected changes for Inner Sydney and the reasons for those changes.

INNER SYDNEY AT 2031

In 2011, there were 819,400 people who lived in Inner Sydney. This population is projected to grow to 1.09 million people by 2031, or 267,000 more people. Average annual growth is projected to be over one per cent, as is projected for all LGAs within Sydney. Projected population growth rates for Inner



Inner Sydney Average Annual Growth rate 1991-96 to 2026-31



WHAT ARE PROJECTIONS?

Population, household and dwelling projections are produced using mathematical models that take population or household composition at one point in time, and calculate likely futures. They are based on the 'usual resident' population, that is people who normally live in a place and have lived there for six months or more. All projections are based on assumptions about what will cause change.

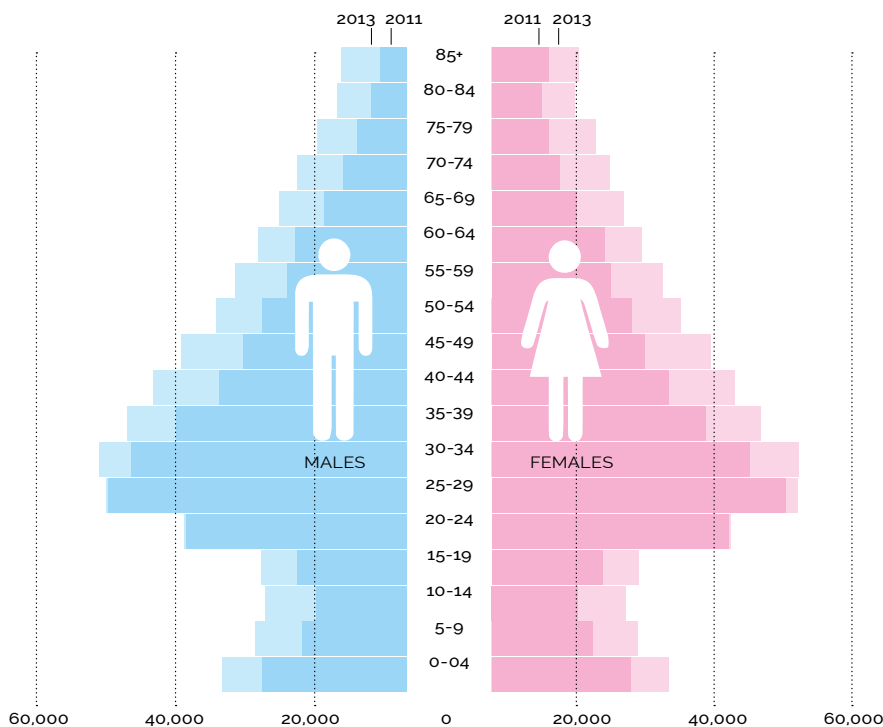
- Population projection assumptions are based on recent and current trends for births, deaths and migration (internal and international).
- Household projections use the population projections and assume the likelihood of living in particular types of households at particular ages remains the same. As the number of people at each age changes, the number of projected households changes in response.
- Dwelling projections assume every projected household lives in a dwelling. They also assume that the level of unoccupied dwellings measured in the 2011 Census remains the same over time so there are always more projected dwellings than projected households.



METHOD FOR PROJECTING POPULATION

The cohort component model has been used for the 2014 NSW Population Projections. The model takes a population broken down by age groups, and moves them forward in time making assumptions about how many people will die at each age, how many babies women will have at certain ages, and how many people will move into and out of an area. It is the most common projection method used by demographers. The model is like financial accounting - start with a population, add incomings (births and migration), subtract outgoings (deaths and migration), and at the end of the year there is a new population size. The assumptions about these incomings (births and migration) and outgoing (deaths and migration) are very important. The cohort component model outputs projected population size by age and sex. From this information, projected growth rates and other measures can be calculated.

Inner Sydney Population by Age: 2011 and 2031



METHOD FOR PROJECTING HOUSEHOLDS

Household projections are produced once the population projections are finalised. The household projection model begins with data on current living arrangements of the population based on the 2011 Census and the population projections. First, the population is separated into people who live in a private dwelling and those who live in a non-private dwellings (e.g. hotel, motel, hospital, retirement home, hostel for the homeless). The projected living arrangements of people living in private dwellings are then calculated in a series of steps which become more detailed at each step. For example, children are divided into those under and over the age of 15 years; then whether they are living with both parents or in a single-parent family. Once the different living arrangement groups are applied to the population projections, they are converted into projected numbers of households.

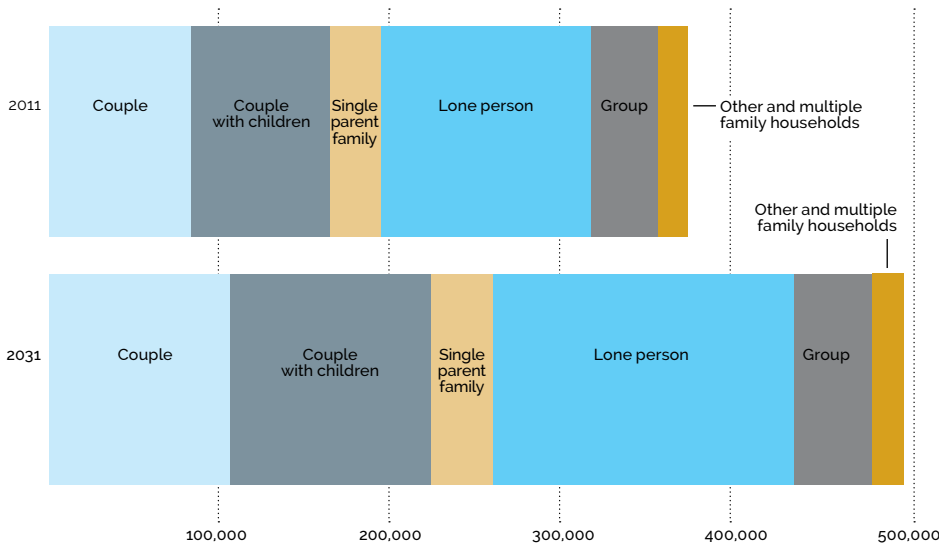
Sydney reflect growth rates that have been seen since the turn of the 21st century in the area. As the figure shows, average annual growth rates were just under one per cent during 1996 to 2001, and rose to 1.4% during 2001-2006. Growth rates reached 1.9% during 2006-2011.

Over the 20 years 2011-2031, the unique age profile of Inner Sydney, shown in the population pyramid, is projected to remain the same. Ageing is projected for Inner Sydney, as is taking place across all of Australia. The impact of this ageing will be seen in two ways. First, there will be a notable increase in the number of people aged 65 and older, from 95,600 in 2011 to 166,050 in 2031. This is an average annual increase of 2.8%. Projected growth is even higher at the oldest ages (85+ years) with average annual growth of 3.2% projected for Inner Sydney. The second impact of ageing is the larger proportion of the population at older ages. Age dependency is a measure comparing the population aged 65 and older with those aged 15-64 years. In 2011 the ratio was 16 people 65+ years for every 100 people 15-64 years. By 2031, this ratio is projected to increase to 22 per 100.

Alongside the increase in older persons, there will also be an increase in the number of people at the youngest ages. There were 109,700 children aged under 15 living in Inner Sydney in 2011 and this is projected to increase to 159,300 by 2031. The population pyramid shows that there is little growth in the number of people aged in their 20s compared to the other age groups. This reflects the continued in and out migration flows of people at these ages. Students may arrive for study over several years but not remain in the areas. It is also likely to reflect some children born in this area not staying in the area once they reach their late 20s.

The projected population growth is reflected in the projected number of households that are expected to live across Inner Sydney. The number of households is projected to increase from 350,400 in 2011 to 470,350 by 2031.

Inner Sydney Households by type



The biggest increase will be seen in lone person households. This was the most common household type in 2011 with 116,650 people living alone, and by 2031 it is likely that the number will reach 167,600. This increase partly reflects the ageing of the population. The increase in the number of lone person households will see a slight change in projected average household size with a decline from 2.27 people per household in 2011 to 2.24 people in 2031.

In 2011 about one-third of all households had children in them (young and adult children), and this ratio is projected to stay about the same. The number of couple with children households is likely to increase from 77,550 to 104,300, a reflection of adult children staying at home longer as well as couples starting new families.

Not unexpectedly, the projected increase in the number of households within Inner Sydney is mirrored by a projected increase in the number of dwellings. The projected number of dwellings needed to house the population is 512,100 by 2031, a rise from 381,400 dwellings in 2011.

WHAT IS CAUSING THE PROJECTED GROWTH?

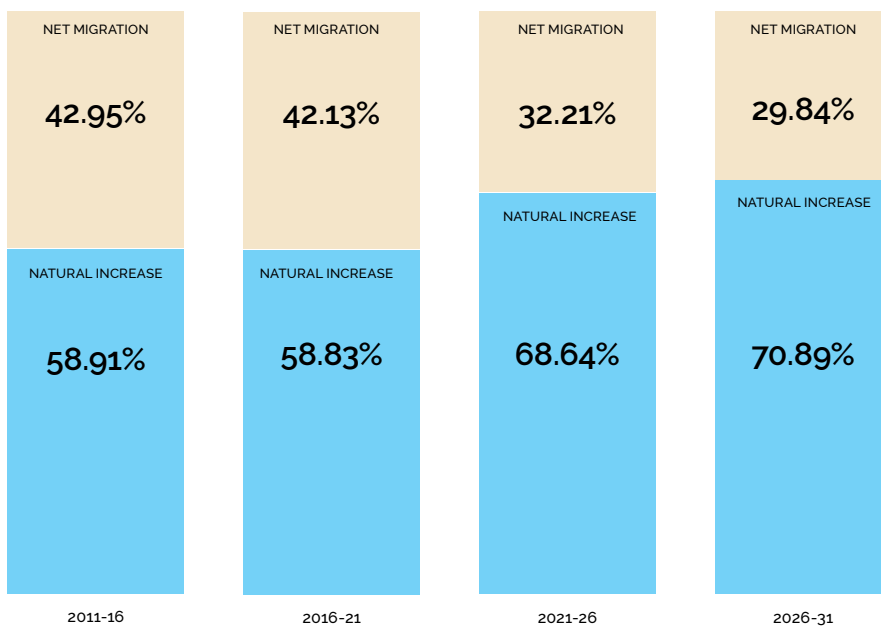
Only three things can cause populations to change: births, deaths and migration. The cohort component model used to project population growth allows us to see the impact on each of these aspects over time and their contribution to population change.

Natural increase is the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths. Natural increase is an important driver of Inner Sydney’s projected growth. Well over half of the growth across Inner Sydney is from people who live there having babies. This is not surprising in light of the age structure of Inner Sydney. The largest age group across Inner Sydney is the 30-34 year age group, and this is also the peak age of childbearing in New South Wales.

METHOD FOR PROJECTING DWELLINGS

Projected dwellings are based on household projections. Their proper name is implied dwellings, and they reflect the likely demand for dwellings based on the projected population. The dwelling projections do not reflect dwelling construction forecasts. It is assumed that one household occupies a dwelling. No assumptions are made about what type of dwelling that might be, or its size. An additional adjustment is made to account for those dwellings that might be unoccupied based on the measure of unoccupied dwellings from the 2011 Census.

Inner Sydney: reasons for population change 2011 to 2031



The rest of the growth comes from migration. Within Inner Sydney there are constant moves of people in and out of the area – to and from overseas, other parts of Sydney, regional and rural New South Wales, and interstate. The final result of these moves is net migration and it is an important driver of Inner Sydney's growth over the 20 years 2011–2031. Migration is highly age-specific, with most moves being made by people in their 20s. There are subsequent flow-on effects for natural increase as these people establish new households and families after they have moved to an area.

These drivers of population change are very important when looking at the projected population growth for Inner Sydney and trying to understand the implications. While changes to the assumptions for births, deaths and migration can lead to a different projected population size, these underlying drivers of population change will remain the same. Women in their 20s and 30s will continue to have babies, and people in their 20s will continue to move. The young age profile of Inner Sydney means these two factors alone will contribute to continued growth.

IMPLICATIONS

Population growth has implications across Inner Sydney in terms of

demand for housing, services, jobs ... all the things that people want in their community. The projected age structure of Inner Sydney means there is likely to be increasing demand for housing, for example, from adult children who want to leave home but stay living in the place they've grown up in.

There will be growth in the number of young and teenage children across Inner Sydney. Most are projected to live with two parents, and a quarter with a single parent. This means increased demand for childcare, schools, sports clubs and so forth.

There are specific implications linked to the projected population ageing that will affect Inner Sydney. This is likely to affect housing and residential care demand, as well as transport and age-specific services. The implications of having a greater share of the population entitled to aged-care concessions may also affect some agencies that rely on fees for income. It also represents an opportunity, with a growing market of people approaching or at retirement.

This projected mix of young and older people means a continued dynamic and vibrant future for Inner Sydney.

Dr Kim Johnstone is the Senior Demographer at the NSW Department of Planning & Environment

THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION

Inner Sydney has a long history of in and out migration flows that have driven population growth, and been a major factor contributing to the age profile of the area. Migration is highly age-specific, and the projections assume that the patterns of movement by age seen in the past will continue. For Inner Sydney, people have been most likely to move into the area in their 20s. There have then been movements out of the area among people aged in their 30s. These in and out movements came from within Australia and overseas. Over one-third of the Inner Sydney population was born overseas. The 2011 Census shows that among those born overseas, 42% arrived in Australia after the year 2000, a further 42% arrived between 1971 and 2000, and 16% arrived before 1971, reflecting a long history of immigration to Inner Sydney. For migration within Australia, over half of people who have moved to and from Inner Sydney were making a move within Greater Sydney. There were also moves to and from other parts of New South Wales, and moves interstate. These in and out moves are part of the Inner Sydney dynamic and they are likely to continue. It is one of the reasons the distinctive age profile of the area is seen.

ARE CAUSES OF FUTURE GROWTH DIFFERENT FROM THE PAST?

The underlying dynamics of Inner Sydney's population change are projected to be the same – that is people will continue to move in and out of the area, young couples will have babies and older people will reach the end of their lives. Two things are emerging for projected population growth that differ from past population change. The first is that fertility rates (the number of babies born to each woman) have returned to higher levels compared to the recent past. Alongside this, the number of women reaching the ages of having children has grown. These two factors combined mean more children being born in the future. The second difference is that the levels of overseas migration to Australia in the 21st Century are higher than any time in the past. Overseas migrants are anyone arriving in Australia for 12 months or more, including returning Australians who themselves have been out of the country for 12 months or more. Forecasts from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection show that overseas migration levels are likely to remain at these high levels.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

More information is available from the Department of Planning & Environment website.

An interactive map shows key data for each local government area, a video highlighting key projected changes and data spreadsheets are available.

Resources outlining the method, sources of data and assumptions used for the projections can also be looked at.

www.planning.nsw.gov.au/projections

GIVING PUBLIC TENANTS A VOICE

NEIGHBOURHOOD ADVISORY BOARDS (NABs), LIKE OTHER RESIDENT GROUPS, ARE SET UP TO GIVE PEOPLE A VOICE ON THE ISSUES FACING THEM AND THEIR NEIGHBOURS. UNLIKE OTHER RESIDENT GROUPS THEY ARE MADE UP OF PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS AND ALSO HAVE TO DEAL WITH THEIR GOVERNMENT LANDLORD AND CHANGING GOVERNMENT POLICIES ABOUT PUBLIC HOUSING. **DAVID WHITE** EXPLAINS

The Neighbourhood Advisory Board (NAB) model was developed by the Department of Housing (DoH) when the first NAB was set up in Redfern/Waterloo in 1995. NABs continue to be resourced by Housing NSW (HNSW) as part of their strategy for tenant participation.

The intention is to bring together, usually bi-monthly, elected tenant representatives, who represent local 'blocks' or precincts, and local agencies to work collaboratively on improving the quality of life for the people living in HNSW estates. The NAB advises on, and when possible resolves, local issues raised by the community.

There are six NABs in the City of Sydney; Glebe, Millers Point, Redfern, Surry Hills, Waterloo and Woolloomooloo. The only NAB outside this area is at Riverwood. All the NABs are located in areas of high density public housing or 'housing estates.' Outside the housing estates public tenant groups are structured to deal with their landlord and not the wider community or human services sector.

Tenant representatives are elected from pre-defined precincts across the estate. There may also be tenants elected

CASE STUDY: WOOLLOOMOOLOO: COMMUNITY BENEFIT FROM A NAB



At the Woolloomooloo NAB (WNAB), issues were constantly being raised concerning smells from drains in parts of Woolloomooloo. The chair of the WNAB asked Sydney Water to the WNAB to address these issues. In May 2013 two officers from Sydney Water were guest speakers at a NAB Meeting. They stated that Woolloomooloo has the last combined drainage system in Sydney (over 100 years old), which means both storm water and sewerage from properties goes into the one pipe. In the rest of Sydney storm water runoff is separate from sewerage. As a consequence, in Woolloomooloo on hot days there are odours from the pits, and when storm water overflows it also spreads raw sewerage across surrounding land.

In addition it was not always clear

to tenants who was responsible for fixing the problems they experienced. Sydney Water is responsible for the main pipe (generally in the centre of the street) but home owners are responsible for the pipes that run from their properties to the main. In streets owned by NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC), such as Griffith Street, LAHC has responsibility for the pipes; although it sometimes seeks assistance from Sydney Water to repair its private sewers. In an emergency, tenants can call Sydney Water direct rather than go through the LAHC Housing Contact Centre.

The single drainage system and resultant problems were clearly unacceptable and caused ongoing problems for both public and private residents as well as for Sydney Water

as culturally specific representatives to ensure that all key tenant voices are heard. HNSW, as the tenancy manager, is also present at NAB meetings, as is NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) as the owner of the properties.

The NAB model recognises that in addressing community concerns, there needs to be a collaborative approach and it therefore relies on tenant participation and key community and government involvement and support. NABs are hence much more than just meetings of tenants and their landlords.

Other key government bodies are also usually represented including the Police Local Area Command, Local Council, District Health and other government agencies such as Community Services and Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC). The local MP's office is also usually represented along with local agencies such as Neighbourhood Centres and Youth Centres and sometimes local schools and shopkeepers.

The NABs are guided in their work by terms of reference and supported by a Housing NSW funded Tenant Participation Resource Support (TPRS) worker



- hear and respond to community issues and concerns
- direct broad issues and concerns to Local, State and Federal decision makers
- provide a collaborative approach (tenants, community / government services) in addressing issues and concerns
- provide information
- inform / change policy
- lobby for resources
- improve service provision
- open the line of communication between public housing tenants and Housing NSW
- inform any renewal strategies
- improve the physical estates

and in some cases a local Housing Communities Program (HCP) worker.

All NABs have an independent chairperson – for example Rev. John McIntyre (see page 27) was the chairperson of the Redfern NAB up until he left Redfern in 2006. NABs also have a secretariat paid for by a HNSW grant.

Precinct representatives, as the people familiar with local issues, are provided the opportunity to link with government departments and community organisations. They do so for the purpose of developing and targeting services and programs that impact positively on the estates.

The NABs provide a forum that can facilitate an interdepartmental approach to tenancy matters and provides a space for the planning and co-ordination of government and community services on the housing estate. The NABs can also make recommendations to HNSW on broader policies, procedures, programs and issues.

Tenant representatives need to be aware of the concerns of the tenants within their precinct and may hold formal precinct meetings to discuss

staff who were regularly required to patch this unsatisfactory system. The WNAB wrote to the then Minister for Finance and Services, Greg Pearce, asking for information on any plans to replace the water and sewerage infrastructure in the area to align it with the rest of Sydney and to set up a communications system to clarify who fixes what.

The June 2013 letter was copied also to the local member, Alex Greenwich's office who took up the issue with the Minister for Housing and Communities on behalf of local residents. The letter received in reply in October 2013 from Minister Pru Goward asserted that "The Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) has made enquiries from Sydney Water, who has advised that the combined sewer system is not the cause of blockages or overflows in Woolloomooloo. LAHC has been advised by Sydney Water that the more likely cause is foreign materials in the sewer lines, most commonly tree roots."

The response from Community Services Minister concerning the sewer system in Woolloomooloo was at odds with what the Sydney Water representatives had earlier told the WNAB meeting. After discussion, it was decided that the best way forward was to write to the Energy and Water Ombudsman (EWON) as they have the

power to investigate, liaise (and get documents) from both agencies and sort out any issues. The information about EWON had come from leaflets distributed by Leanne, from Alex Greenwich's Office.

The WNAB Chair wrote a letter of complaint to EWON, outlining the steps taken so far and the responses from Sydney Water and the Minister's office.

Sydney Water then contacted WNAB as Sydney Water now plan to address the odour and backup problem by installing a dual pipe system to separate the sewer and storm water. It has \$1.4 million funding to do a feasibility study on how best to put the separate pipes in, working with local community, stake holders and regulators. Sydney Water will also look for 25 community representatives, who care for their community and are well networked so that they can spread the word, to create a community reference group. Media will also be used to engage the wider community.

This is a good example of how public tenants have been able to work with various stakeholders in a NAB structure to achieve a good result not only for public tenants but also for the broader community of which they are a part.

ISRCSD consultation for Inquiry into Social, Public and Affordable Housing



issues and report on NAB activities.

Some of the outcomes of the NABs include improved coordination of government and community services, including mental health, safety and other initiatives and the targeting of resources.

A lot of NAB time is spent on maintenance issues, waste management and physical improvements to Public Housing Properties. The undertaking of Community Safety Audits of the estates is an important NAB initiative that has produced many beneficial outcomes for tenants including improved lighting and maintenance in public areas, closed circuit TV monitoring, better safety and traffic management.

NABs also input into the Community Drug Action Teams (CDATs) about issues of concern, organise community events and help build community pride and ownership within the estate.

In spite of their important role as a voice for their communities NABs are often overlooked as an important community voice by those outside public housing. Often however the activities of NABs reach well beyond the borders of their estate and deliver improvements for their surrounding communities such as in the case study on Woolloomooloo NAB and that suburbs drainage.

David White is the Tenant Participation Resource Support (TPRS) worker at ISRCSD. He is responsible for resourcing NABs and other tenant mechanisms in the Inner City and North Sydney.

You can find more information about TPRS and NABs on the Inner Sydney Voice and ISRCSD websites.

CASE STUDY: ESTABLISHMENT OF REDFERN AND WATERLOO NABS

In April 1994 Cara MacDougall became the first community development worker under the HCAP Housing Communities Assistance Program (HCAP) in Redfern/Waterloo operating from ISRCSD.

Cara identified that public housing tenants in Redfern and Waterloo were experiencing high levels of crime, drug abuse, social isolation, family breakdown and violence. This experience was associated with living in an area with a high concentration of poverty, unemployment, many people living with mental illness without much needed community support residing in high rise flats.

Cara identified that the most pressing issue for the community was safety and security. Tenants were concerned about inadequate street lighting, not having decent locks on their doors, bag snatching, reports of people being beaten or pushed over, and the failure of police to respond to calls and address the problems. As a result, a Safety and Security Committee, made up of tenants, police and the Department of Housing (DoH), was formed to keep the issues on the agenda. This committee was used to inform the establishment of the first Estates Advisory Board (EAB).

By April 1995, a number of tenants were elected as community representatives and had had their first EAB meeting. A training program was

put in place which covered meeting procedures and an overview of the internal workings of the DoH. The EAB started out meeting bi-monthly, then changed to meeting every six weeks, with the tenant representatives meeting in between EAB meetings to put together an agenda.

In 1996 the Estate Advisory Board was reformed into two separate NABs – Redfern and Waterloo. The concept of precincts was formed to enable the NABs to become more representative. Waterloo was divided into ten precincts and Redfern into eight with each precinct electing their own representative to the NAB. One of the Wellington St shops was also converted into a drop-in centre for tenants to use as community space.

Both NABs continue to function and now separate out Housing Standards and Maintenance from other issues. Redfern NAB deals with both within the same meeting, while Waterloo NAB deals with Housing Standards bi-monthly and in the alternate month Tenant Representatives meet with the lead agencies from a number of NAB action groups. The Waterloo action groups are the Waterloo Wellbeing and Safety Action Group (WWSAG), the Learning, Employment and Enterprise Action Group (LEEAG) and an Events Group which now covers both NABs. Within this structure many projects operate and report back to the NABs.

FROM PUBLIC HOUSING TO VOUCHERS: AN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE

AS THE INNER SYDNEY REGIONAL COUNCIL'S INTERN FOR 6 WEEKS CELIA ETTINGER OBSERVED THE RELOCATIONS PROCESS CURRENTLY BEING UNDERTAKEN IN THE MILLERS POINT AREA. HERE SHE REFLECTS ON WHAT SHE SAW.

Throughout my internship I was able to compare my knowledge of public housing in the US to public housing in NSW in order to bring a different perspective to the housing relocations process than my fellow Australian co-workers. What was particularly interesting to me is how both Australia and the US have implemented some form of a subsidy system in order to separate public and private housing.

Before my internship I had explored The Rocks area. Based on my experiences with public housing, it never even crossed my mind that the area contained numerous public housing dwellings. On the second day of my internship I was driven around the area again. I was very surprised to find that the area was home to public housing.

In the US, there is no diversity in communities comprising of public and private housing. Public housing is typically located in slums that consist of solely public housing and other government supported homes. This is because over the past 100 years the US has gentrified many areas and pushed public housing into undesirable areas, consciously separating private and public homes.

What Australia has done so well at preserving in The Rocks area, until now it seems, is the integration of public and private housing in order to make the area desirable for all types of people regardless of income.

Section 8 of the US Housing Act, authorizes the payment of rental

housing assistance to private landlords on behalf of approximately 3.1 million low-income households in the US. The largest part of the section is the Housing Choice Voucher program that pays a large portion of the rents and utilities of about 2.1 million households.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program provides "tenant-based" rental assistance, so a tenant can move from one unit of at least minimum housing quality to another. The goal of Section 8 in the US was to create a sector of the private market that aimed to supply low cost housing. This initiative has not worked and instead has created an ever-growing gap between the rich and the poor that seems to be infinitely expanding while separating private and public housing dwellings.

The largest problem for the US is that as it demolishes public housing areas, it does not create new housing facilities. The reliance on these vouchers creates more inequality in the country rather than remediating the problem of housing inequality. This is the path that many seem to believe public housing in Australia is heading towards.

Australia does not have a voucher program the way that the US does but there has been a very similar attempt to move away from public housing provision. This has taken place through increased reliance on Commonwealth Rental Assistance (CRA) since the Hawke Labor Government in the 1980s.

There are two main criticisms of the CRA. One critique is that it acts as a demand subsidy, meaning it adds more money to the system without building more properties, and therefore inflates rent. The second criticism of the CRA is that because it is not indexed to rent increases, it has failed to keep up with the actual cost of housing, effectively reducing over time.

This is Australia's equivalent to US vouchers. Both systems are demand subsidies that support market provision of essential services and public goods.

Many believe the CRA demonstrates the political failure of targeting payments like this: it's too easy to fiddle with indexation and watch it decline slowly over time.

If the Australian government continues on the same path that it is on with demolishing public housing and trying to remedy the lack of public housing with subsidies, it will find itself with more slums and higher inequality between home owners. Australia needs to learn from the mistakes that the US has made and create more public housing facilities as it destroys them.

Prior to coming to Australia with my American study abroad group, I expected to encounter deadly creatures, explore the country and learn about a different culture. While I did experience these things, I actually got something much more valuable out of my trip down under. I learned that there is a difference between eliminating the problem of public housing and solving the problem of public housing. Demolition techniques can do the former, but only profound policy changes and substantial public investment can bring about the latter.



Celia Ettinger is studying Sociology at the University of Michigan

CHOICE BASED LETTING

THE MILLERS POINT 'HOUSING LOTTO' HAS RECEIVED THE ATTENTION OF MAINSTREAM MEDIA IN RECENT MONTHS, WITH CHANNEL TEN NEWS AND CHANNEL NINE'S *A CURRENT AFFAIR* RUNNING STORIES AND INTERVIEWS WITH RESIDENTS. **JOEL PRINGLE** INVESTIGATES THE ORIGINS OF CHOICE BASED LETTING AND EXPLORES SOME OF THE ISSUES RAISED.

The forced relocation of Millers Point public housing residents, and ultimately the break-up of a strong and supportive community, has been a major distress to residents. The pitching of residents against each other in a ballot competition introduces further stress for some of them.

The 'Housing Lotto', as it has been referred to by tenants, is the first major trial of choice based letting in Australia, and perhaps the largest in Australia. Originally developed in the Netherlands in the early 1990s, choice based letting is relatively widespread in the UK, especially amongst non-government community housing providers.

Choice based letting has the potential to provide better service for social housing residents, if implemented appropriately. The policy is an attempt to provide potential social housing residents with more choice over the properties that they are to make home.

The new arrangement, for successful applicants at least, gives social housing residents an experience closer to the private rental market. However, instead of rationing by the use of price (at least theoretically), social housing is rationed by availability. Instead of being limited by their personal budgets, social housing residents are limited by the number and quality of

homes provided by the government and the non-government housing sectors which are often starved of the funding required to meet the level of community need.

The UK model generally involves a three step process, administered with variations by different councils and housing associations:

1. Available properties are advertised locally to eligible residents in newsletters and community notices.
2. Bidding is then opened for interested tenants. Again, bidding is administered differently by different organisations administering the process.
3. The housing association or tenancy manager then collates the bids and, crucially, the applicant with the highest housing priority is given the first right to refuse the property.

It is the UK model that is likely to be the influence for Housing NSW (HNSW). However it is difficult to tell how the policy was developed by HNSW, or what its goals are. Requests to senior HNSW staff to share the policy discussion and briefing documents have been refused on the basis that they are confidential.

Choice based letting is a major change in how social housing tenancies are allocated, and it is likely to play a growing role over time. This trial has been made

without justification, without transparency and without input from the people likely to be affected.

What we do know about the HNSW approach is that it has changed choice based letting administration in two significant ways that undermine the potential positives of the program. A policy that had potential to benefit the experience of social housing residents is instead now being rolled out as part of the divisive process of forced relocations.

At the third step of the process outlined above, the UK approach maintains the principle of housing allocation by need. This is one of the foundations of equity in the social housing system, and there appears little evidence of choice based letting being used to undermine this principle elsewhere.

Choice based letting in Millers Point has introduced a new factor to the





“It appears that the lure of ‘winning’ one of the best properties is being used to hasten the closure of a community and the sale of their homes. Given the impetus to move and the threat of missing out if they wait too long, it is no surprise that some fearful residents see a roll of the dice as their only option, not a choice”

final allocation. Instead of offering the property to the applicant highest on the priority waiting list, a ballot has been introduced. Currently in public housing, properties are allocated on need, based on the assessment of HNSW staff.

In the private market, applicants self-allocate based on a price, and then real estate agents make a recommendation to the landlord based on their perception of who would be the most reliable tenant. In the Millers Point tenant relocations, the successful applicant is pulled out of a box.

However, questions have been asked by tenants about whether this is actually what occurs. These questions arise from the lack of transparency. Even though the ballot is public, the selected, sealed envelopes are taken to another location, without independent observers, before being opened. The lack of transparency from HNSW creates a lack of trust amongst affected residents.

HNSW staff have stated publicly that Millers Point residents do not have to participate in the ballot if they don't wish. But this belies the second major corruption of choice based letting created by HNSW: the residents of Millers Point are not given the choice to remain in their homes until an alternative that they prefer becomes available. If they do not participate in choice based letting they are only entitled under the policy to get two relocation offers and may be evicted if they have not moved by the time the Government wants to sell.

Anecdotal reports suggest that HNSW Relocation Officers have told Millers Point residents that there is only a limited availability of suitable properties, and that those who move first will get the better houses. The implication being that those who move last will get the lesser quality properties.

Given the political challenges of closing down a housing community like Millers Point, one that caused the Government so much trouble during the Green Bans period, it is no surprise that there would be attempts to rush the relocations. Relocating a community this size in such a short timeframe is unprecedented.

It appears that the lure of ‘winning’ one of the best properties is being used to hasten the closure of a community and the sale of their homes. Given the impetus to move and the threat of missing out if they wait too long, it is no surprise that some fearful residents see a roll of the dice as their only option, not a choice.

In a recent Millers Point ballot 17 people entered for one Annandale property and 13 for another in Lilyfield. Of the 30 tenants who went through the process two were successful and 28 had to restart looking at the next round of properties.

The origins of choice based letting are in providing social housing residents with more dignity and at least some level of increased control in their housing. Under its current implementation by HNSW, residents are pushed into the system by fear of missing out on decent properties they see as being offered to entice them to move out quickly so their current homes can be sold.

Currently housing allocation to those tenants with the highest housing priority has been replaced by allocation priority to those the government wants to move so it can sell their current houses. If choice based letting is to be introduced in NSW as a form of allocations, it needs to be done using a transparent process based on housing priority otherwise the current trial is likely to be distorted by the political incentives of moving tenants out of Millers Point as quickly as possible.

Joel Pringle has been the Senior Community Development Officer at ISRCSD responsible for Millers Point.

STOPPING BURNOUT

BURNOUT IS A COMMON PROBLEM IN THE COMMUNITY SECTOR. HERE **SHANE BROWN** REFLECTS ON HIS 40 YEARS IN YOUTH WORK ON HOW TO AVOID BURNING OUT.

There are many causes of burnout for workers and volunteers. Often workers feel alone and unsupported, many become overwhelmed with responsibility, feel unappreciated or overly daunted by lack of perceived progress in achieving a particular goal. Many are not remunerated properly and, because of the nature of the work, don't advocate for good pay and conditions.

Vicarious trauma is one of the greatest reasons for burnout and is caused by the constant exposure to the trauma of others in the work place and the stress of finding solutions to serious practical and emotional issues faced by others.

I believe that the single most serious cause of burnout is isolation and lack of support or supervision and unclear expectations of the work role. Often we don't talk about the issue because it's



seen as a weakness in our approach or that we are not doing our job properly. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I have been working in the community for the past 40 years and in the South Sydney community for the past 30 years as a youth worker, project worker counsellor, community activist and now CEO of Weave Youth and Community Services. Weave provides support to young people and families who are socially excluded and our aim to build a stronger more connected community. The organization I work for has a clear vision for the work and a strong understanding of how communities can be healthy and happy. We have a very supportive workplace and all staff get internal supervision as well as external support of their choice. The roles in the organization are clear and there are many opportunities to discuss the work and how we are coping and feeling.

I think that the reason I have stayed in the youth work I have chosen is that I have a strong understanding of the positive impact of social justice and the political system we live in. My work is grounded in an understanding of what impact I and others can have, and I also know the limitations of my role. I truly believe that equity and equality bring us together, provide opportunities for all and create a healthy community. The reason I mention this is that it grounds me and gives my purpose clear meaning.

On a more practical note I know the value of cooperation with others and have been able to seek out support when I have needed it. I have always sought out supervision and advice to better understand the often difficult and traumatic work we do. Emotional exhaustion is a major cause of burnout for many and the most dangerous thing to do is ignore the warning signs that this stress causes. It can manifest in lack of sleep, taking work home, not being able to separate yourself from work and losing personal perspective.

In my early years of providing support to young people on the streets of Redfern I was supported weekly by an independent clinical supervisor who helped me gain perspective and keep a good work life balance. At the time I got this support my employer couldn't afford to pay for the external support but I was able to find a co worker in another agency that provided the support for free.

“Avoiding burnout ... relies on being able to understand the stressors and triggers for burnout, talk to others, get counselling, supervision and debriefing and support our peers”

For many Aboriginal workers the pressure of personal issues impacting on their work life can be much greater. The family demands and past personal trauma that some Aboriginal people have had to face make this work challenging. The cumulative impact of vicarious trauma can be much greater. Being aware of these issues and talking about them can provide space to reflect on how you are travelling emotionally and what impact the work is having.

There have been times in the past where personal issues have impacted on my work, particularly the death of my father. At this time I sought personal counselling and was able to identify what was happening for me. Just being aware of the impact was enough for me to separate the two and continue to counsel young people with similar family issues.

To maintain my balance I try to keep fit by starting every day with a swim, not working excessive hours

and making sure that I put a good deal of effort into my personal friends and family life. I look after myself by having personal interests completely outside the work context in cabinet-making and woodwork as well as other artistic pursuits and am involved with an inner city bike group that I ride with on weekends. We all know there are times when work becomes all consuming, I can't tell you how important it is to take practical steps to keep that work life balance.

I feel privileged to work in the Redfern Waterloo community and some years ago my staff held a community event to celebrate the 25 years I have worked at Weave. It was a surprise party at Redfern Town Hall. Lots of young people and their families turned up, this sort of recognition has also kept me going. It's so important to acknowledge the work and commitment of others, it made me very humble and chuffed.

The work we do in the community can be traumatic and emotionally draining. Many of the young people we work with have had past hurts and losses and some have suffered abuse that is emotionally overwhelming. Avoiding burnout in this work relies on being able to understand the stressors and triggers for burnout, talk to others, get counselling, supervision and debriefing and support our peers. Having a supportive workplace that takes time to build team morale and offers time out when necessary.

Finally self care is vital for reducing the likelihood of burnout, it's different for everyone but includes eating well, physical fitness and mental wellness. Taking time out for friends and love ones or interests outside of work and enjoying being alive.

Shane Brown is the CEO of Weave Youth and Community Services

For more info visit www.community.nsw.gov.au/docs_menu/for_agencies_that_work_with_us/home_training/shs_training/self_care_tool_kit.html



PLANNING FOR PEOPLE CHARTER

FOLLOWING THE FAILURE OF THE NSW PLANNING REFORMS LAST YEAR, REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITY, RESIDENT, HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUPS HAVE BEEN MEETING TO DEFINE MORE CLEARLY WHAT THESE GROUPS WANT FROM THE PLANNING SYSTEM. THE RESULT HAS BEEN A *COMMUNITY CHARTER FOR GOOD PLANNING IN NSW*. A COMPANION DOCUMENT THAT DETAILS HOW THIS CHARTER COULD BE IMPLEMENTED HAS ALSO BEEN PRODUCED.

In the lead up to the state election, organisations and residents are being asked to show their support by endorsing the charter and by encouraging candidates to publicly commit to good planning in NSW by also signing the charter.

Here we have reproduced the charter with its interpretation of principles. Copies of the Charter and the companion document for distribution will be available from www.planningforpeople.org. At the website you will also be able to register support for the *Planning for People Charter*.



PLANNING FOR PEOPLE

A COMMUNITY CHARTER FOR GOOD PLANNING IN NSW

OUR VISION

A planning system that thinks of both today and tomorrow; is built on fairness, equity and the concept of Ecologically Sustainable Development; guides quality development to the right places; ensures poorly designed developments and those in the wrong place don't get built; and protects the things that matter, from open spaces, bushland and productive agricultural land to much-loved historic town centres and buildings.

GOOD PLANNING IS GOVERNED BY THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- The well-being of the whole community, the environment and future generations across regional, rural and urban NSW;
- Effective and genuine public participation in strategic planning and development decisions;
- An open, accessible, transparent and accountable, corruption-free planning system;
- The integration of land use planning with the provision of infrastructure and the conservation of our natural, built and cultural environment; and,
- Objective, evidence-based assessment of strategic planning and development proposals.

THESE PRINCIPLES WILL GUIDE A PLANNING SYSTEM THAT:

- Respects, values and conserves our natural environment and the services it provides;

“The role of planning authorities includes facilitating community input into the preparation of strategic plans prior to public exhibition and genuine, open dialogue between stakeholders”

- Facilitates world-class urban environments with well-designed resource-efficient housing, public spaces and solar access that meet the needs of residents, workers and pedestrians;
- Provides housing choice, including affordable housing and sufficient housing for the disadvantaged, in a diversity of locations;
- Celebrates, respects and conserves our cultural (including Aboriginal) and built heritage;
- Protects and sustainably manages our natural resources, including our water resources, fragile coastlines and irreplaceable agricultural land for the benefit of present and future generations while maintaining or enhancing ecological processes and biological diversity;
- Retains and protects our crown lands, natural areas, landscapes and flora and fauna for the benefit of the people of NSW; and,
- Gives local and regional communities a genuine and meaningful voice in shaping their local area and region, its character and the location, height and density of housing. Provides certainty and fairness to communities.

The Charter can be supported at:
www.planningforpeople.org

THE CHARTER PRINCIPLES INTERPRETED

The well-being of the whole community, the environment and future generations across regional, rural and urban NSW

We call for a planning system that integrates short and long term social, environmental and economic considerations to create lasting benefits for communities, now and in the future. This is the concept of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) as currently defined in the Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991. ESD must be the overarching objective of the planning system. For more information about ESD refer to the Charter Companion document.

Effective and genuine public participation in strategic planning and development decisions

Everyone has the right to participate in decisions that affect their lives. People affected by a planning or development proposal have the right, knowledge and experience to contribute to the final decision. The role of planning authorities includes facilitating community input into the preparation of strategic plans prior to public exhibition and genuine, open dialogue between stakeholders. The role of consent authorities is to consider public comments on development proposals and ensure compliance by developers.

An open, accessible, transparent and accountable and corruption-free planning system

Decision processes must be transparent and accountable. Decisions must be made in public, respond objectively to issues raised in submissions, provide reasons and be subject to the rules of procedural fairness. The community's ability to seek review of a decision is important in preventing corruption and poor decision-making. All information considered when assessing a proposal must be publicly available and accessible prior to the decision

being made. So called 'fast-tracking' of development does not benefit the public interest. Anti-corruption measures must be effective and enforceable.

Disproportionate influence from vested financial interests has no place in planning decisions. The ability to lobby decision makers is a democratic right. However, it is inappropriate to allow companies, wealthy individuals or lobbyists a greater level of access than is available to the public.

The integration of land use planning with the provision of infrastructure and the conservation of our natural, built and cultural environment

An integrated approach is the key to achieving the kind of sustainable settlement patterns that are needed now and into the future. This type of approach will allow future planning to maintain the integrity of natural areas, take into account natural hazards and constraints, locate employment and key social infrastructure in accessible locations, and ensure the provision of sustainable infrastructure systems that use less energy and resources.

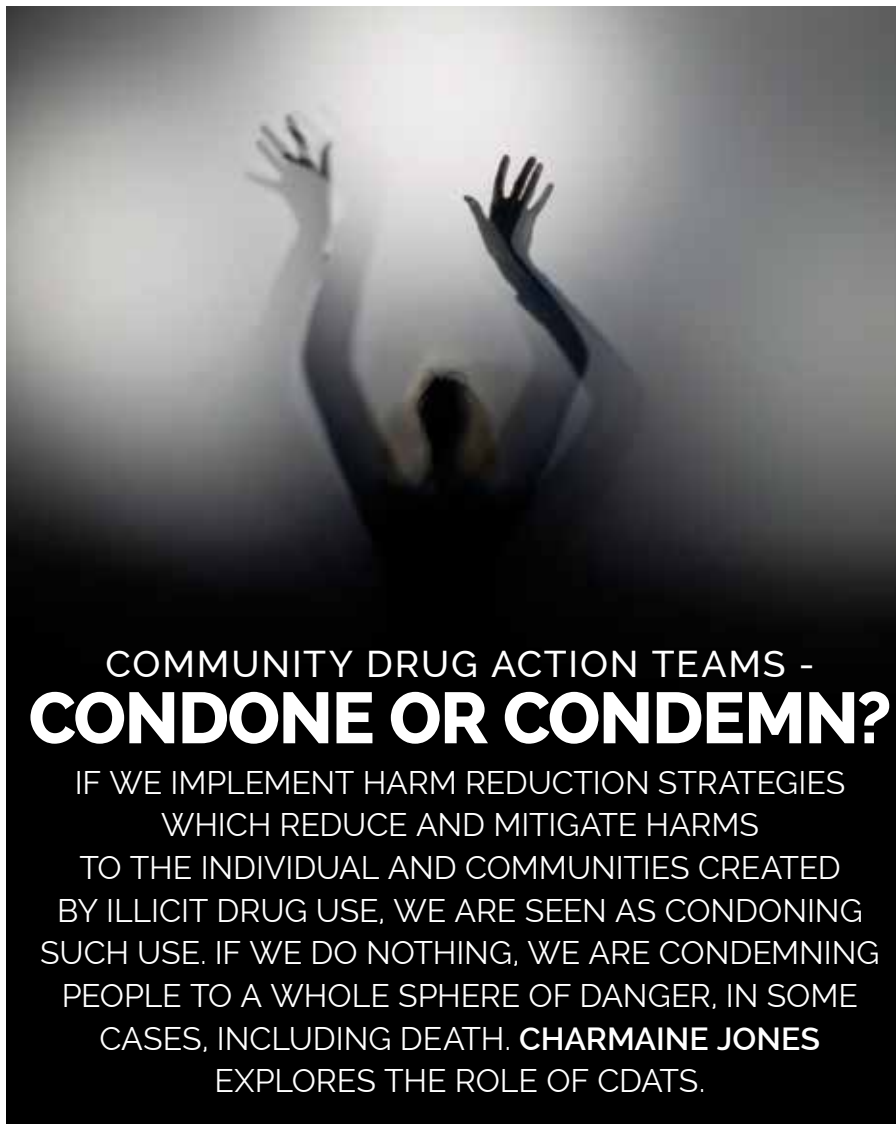
Objective, evidence-based assessment of strategic planning and development proposals

The foundation stone of a good planning system is a sound knowledge base that is publicly accessible and is updated / maintained by government in the public interest. The current system in which the developer pays for reports, such as environmental impact statements, creates conflicts of interests. Whilst it is equitable for developers to pay for reports, the objectivity of reports must be ensured by requiring professional standards and keeping the appointment of consultants at arm's length from developers.

This Charter is accompanied by a Companion document that details how this Charter could be implemented. This can be found at www.planningforpeople.org
 Enquiries or endorsements can be emailed to thecomunitycharter@gmail.com

Planning for People: A Community Charter for Good Planning in NSW has been prepared by a working group of community organisations in consultation with the Better Planning Network, Community Councillors Network, Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development, National Parks Association of NSW, National Trust of Australia (NSW), Nature Conservation Council of NSW, NSW Heritage Network, Shelter NSW and the Total Environment Centre.

The Charter is © August 2014



COMMUNITY DRUG ACTION TEAMS - CONDONE OR CONDEMN?

IF WE IMPLEMENT HARM REDUCTION STRATEGIES WHICH REDUCE AND MITIGATE HARMS TO THE INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITIES CREATED BY ILLICIT DRUG USE, WE ARE SEEN AS CONDONING SUCH USE. IF WE DO NOTHING, WE ARE CONDEMNING PEOPLE TO A WHOLE SPHERE OF DANGER, IN SOME CASES, INCLUDING DEATH. **CHARMAINE JONES** EXPLORES THE ROLE OF CDATS.

Australia has been at the forefront of harm reduction practices for illicit drug use. As soon as it was identified that HIV was a blood borne virus, Needle Syringe Programs (NSPs) which provided free and accessible syringes and condoms were introduced around the country. More than 30 million clean syringes are handed out free across the country each year. Studies into the scheme have concluded that for every dollar spent, more than \$4 has been saved to the health system by preventing the spread of diseases like HIV and Hepatitis C. For more on this see *Harm Reduction in Substance Use and High-Risk Behaviour* – edited by Richard Pates, Diane Riley, Wiley Publishers 2007.

NSPs are a national initiative but since 1999 NSW Health have also funded harm reduction activities at a local community level in the shape of Community Drug Action Teams (CDATs).

CDATs are coalitions of representatives from government and non-government agencies, local community, local business and welfare organisations set up to respond to the impact of alcohol and other drugs in their community, working within a harm reduction and prevention framework. NSW Health had overseen the work of the more than 80 active CDATs across the state since the program's inception, until late last year when it handed the funding for and management of the CDATs to a non-government organisation, the Australian Drug Foundation (ADF).

The ADF supports CDATs with access to the latest research on effective community development and health promotion activities. Regionally based Senior Community Development Officers help CDATs plan and run educational programs, community forums, develop resources and campaigns as well as many other activities and events.

Inner Sydney CDATs are based in Surry Hills, Randwick, Redfern Waterloo and Marrickville and open to all community members interested in working collaboratively to implement programs and activities that will reduce harm to individuals and communities, and assist in creating safer and healthier communities.

Each team works to reduce the local impact of alcohol and other drug problems by identifying gaps in services, and working with organisations and other community groups on local projects. Inner Sydney CDATs projects have ranged from debate nights, open forums on alcohol and methamphetamine (ice), to support activities for street drinkers, liver testing and advocating for wet centres.

There is much research that can be used to guide CDATs: National Drugs Strategy Household Surveys (NDSHS), Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS), NSW Bureau of Crime Statistic and Research are but a few examples – but the real strength of CDATs is the ability to collate data and understand issues at a community level. The Oxford St end of Surry Hills has been challenged with alcohol induced violent assaults, while the southern end has dealt with the issue of discarded syringes. It is an intimate knowledge of the neighbourhood's streets that mean CDATs can be proactive and flexible in ways state-wide and national drug and alcohol programs cannot.

Charmaine Jones is the Executive Officer of ISRCSD which provides the secretariat for the Redfern Waterloo CDAT.

In upcoming issues of Inner Sydney Voice, we will explore the work of the Inner Sydney CDATs in more detail. In the meantime, if you are interested in joining your local CDAT, you can visit www.adf.org.au/policy-advocacy/join-a-team-4 or call the Australian Drug Foundation on 9972 3160.





John, Jan and their daughters Jessica and Lisa at John's ordination as a bishop
Photo: Jack Carnegie

VALÉ JOHN MAC

THE LIFE OF BISHOP JOHN CHARLES MCINTYRE (27 OCTOBER 1951 – 6 JUNE 2014) WAS CELEBRATED AT SAINT SAVIOUR'S ANGLICAN CHURCH REDFERN ON 17 JUNE 2014 WHERE JOHN MAC, AS HE MORE COMMONLY KNOWN LOCALLY, WAS RECTOR FROM 1990 TO 2005. **JACK CARNEGIE** REFLECTS ON HIS CONTRIBUTION AND PASSING.

Much has been written about John McIntyre since his untimely death last month. His friend, journalist Julie Baird, wrote a moving piece in the Herald, describing him as “a priest who fought for the disadvantaged, the marginalised and the spurned.” These attributes made sure he was marginalised in the conservative Sydney Anglican diocese.

I first met John when I worked at South Sydney Community Aid and was surprised, like many, that this progressive member of the ALP, pub drinker, folk music lover and human rights advocate was indeed an Anglican priest. We got along very well.

Dinner with John, his wife Jan and daughters Jessica and Lisa were chaotic affairs, with some local issue always ensuring that nothing ran to schedule,

but they were hugely entertaining and immensely enjoyable.

John was an active community worker in the Redfern area, serving on committees and working closely with the Aboriginal community and public housing tenants. He always had time for one more issue and took them on with optimism and good humour. His constant battles with the conservative Sydney Anglicans eventually led him back to Victoria, when he was appointed Bishop of Gippsland.

A huge gathering at Saint Saviours saw John off when he was appointed Bishop. The eclectic crowd included MPs, clergy, public housing tenants, drinking buddies and his Aboriginal friends. There were tears and mixed emotions at his departure: he got the

job he deserved but Redfern had lost a great champion of the poor and marginalised.

One of John's legacies was the conversion of the old church hall at Saint Saviours into office accommodation for four Home and Community Care organisations. These groups provided transport, food, home maintenance and home visiting services to the frail aged and people with disabilities. They were desperate for accommodation and with a government grant the old hall was converted into a vibrant space for these services.

Unfortunately, John's replacement didn't have the same commitment to the secular community as he did and they were asked to leave by the new minister.

In these harsh conservative times we can ill afford to lose such a generous, intelligent and compassionate man, who still had much to offer to his church and Australia.

Jack Carnegie has worked in a number of community organisations in South Sydney including South Sydney Community Aid, South Sydney Community Transport, Newtown Neighbourhood Centre and ISRCS.

John McIntyre returned to Redfern in 2007 to deliver the Marg Barry Memorial Lecture on *What is truth? Discovering the basis for authentic communities*. You can read his presentation on the ISRCS website.

WHAT IS INNER SYDNEY REGIONAL COUNCIL?

INNER SYDNEY REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN WORKING AROUND SOUTH SYDNEY FOR 40 YEARS. FOR OLD HANDS IT IS KNOWN FROM ITS HISTORY AS 'MARG BARRY'S MOB'. FOR THOSE NOT IN THE KNOW THE WORD COUNCIL WRONGLY ELICITS IDEAS OF IT BEING A LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODY. EXECUTIVE OFFICER **CHARMAINE JONES** PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF THE ORGANISATION AND LOOKS AT WHAT IT HAS DONE OVER THE LAST YEAR.

Established in 1974, Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development (ISRCSD, Inner Sydney Regional Council, Regional Council) staff and members have been involved in social justice, environmental, civil rights, public service and community service issues since then. We achieve this by maintaining an active network of contacts with the community sector, interagencies, residents groups, environmentalists, councils, politicians, trade unionists, activists and public servants.

Regional Council has worked with and supported residents and community groups on issues and campaigns such as: better public transport, the sale of public housing, protection of the community sector, opposition to over-development and protection of historical and culturally significant sites.

ISRCSD is a not-for-profit regional peak community organisation that works in the Inner Sydney and Eastern Suburbs region providing non-government organisations, not-for-profits, community groups and individuals with information, advocacy and support, and community development opportunities.

We advocate for and represent community organisations and resi-

dents to government and other relevant organisations. We also assist communities, organisations and individuals to take action to address their issues and needs. Community development philosophies underpin all of our activities. We believe in social justice, social inclusion and the participation and empowerment of local people.

ISRCSD OPERATES THREE MAJOR FUNDED PROJECTS

- **Information and Community Development** – distributes information through brochures, Inner Sydney Voice and a fortnightly eNews; provides training and sector support, coordinates interagencies and facilitates projects that strengthen and build community capacity; funded by Family and Community Services NSW
- **Home and Community Care (HACC) Development** – provides support to existing services through the Eastern Sydney HACC Forum and looks at bigger picture issues such as the planning of services, identifying needs and liaising with other health and disability services; funded by Department of Social Services

- **Central Sydney North Tenant Participation Resource (TPRS)** – supports, advocates and resources tenants and tenant groups through the provision of training in tenant participation and encourages opportunities for tenants to become involved in decision-making processes; funded by Family and Community Services NSW

In addition ISRCSD is a member of, participates in and works with, a number of state wide organisations representing and servicing the sector. This helps to provide a conduit between local communities and sector organisations.

You can get a flavour of what the organisation does by looking at its annual report. Here are some of the things ISRCSD has done in 2013-14.

2013 saw the announcement of Urban Activation Precincts (UAPs) which incorporated the proposed redevelopment of five of the larger public housing estates in the Anzac Parade South precinct within the Randwick LGA serviced by our Community Builders project. A UAP was also declared for Macquarie Park serviced by our TPRS project. This was followed quickly by the announcement of the CBD and Eastern Light Rail Project which goes through our area and the Central to Eveleigh project proposal.

At the same time, the NSW government had drafted a new planning bill on top of the Draft Metropolitan Strategy. The Minister at the time, Brad Hazzard promised the people of NSW 'a visionary planning system that would enable the State's necessary growth, guard against corruption, provide greater certainty and transparency and return planning powers to local communities.' The Draft Metro Strategy and the planning bill had big implications for our area and proposed changes to local government flagged by the state government added another layer of complexity.

Each of these meant a quick upskilling in understanding of basic planning talk of 'floor space ratios' and 'SEPPs' for impacted communities. Assessing and facilitation of how best to ensure legitimate and respectful community engagement processes were followed so that communities had a chance to understand what was being proposed and have a say. We are keen to assist those communities likely to be affected with building their capacity to understand planning models and planning language, so when the time comes they are ready.

Building on what was an evident thirst within the community to better understand planning legislation and jargon, Regional Council, in partnership with Urban Planning and Policy group at the University of Sydney, and supported by the Department of Planning and Environment, ran a pilot Planning for Non-Planners workshop. The success of this event will see further roll out of the program.

The proposed sale of Millers Point Public Housing properties caught us off guard, as the community had been assured that the Social Impact Assessment would be discussed with them before any decision was made by Government. Our focus then had to be on ensuring the best possible outcomes for the shattered community and each individual person or family as they went through the transfer process.

ISRCSD worked with other organisations and tenants in Millers Point to raise some funds to employ a worker for a few months to assist the community in organising a response to the decision to remove public housing from Millers Point.

We dealt with all this while maintaining our usual business of supporting and resourcing community organisations, interagencies and the communities they support.

We undertook consultation with social housing tenants and community and local government workers

to draw up a submission to the NSW Parliament's Select Committee into Public and Social Housing, instigated by the auditor's general report in to Social Housing, which pointed at a system in a crisis. We also consulted the tenants at Northcott Estate in Surry Hills about their concerns for the possible impacts of the light rail, during construction and in the future, as the line, running up Devonshire Street, cuts through the middle of the estate.

In December last year, we held our Partnerships, Mergers and Collaborations forum. This was driven by a prevailing sense that smaller organisations will not survive these times of economic rationalism. However real the threat is or isn't, it makes good sense for all organisations whose resources are stretched to capacity to look at working collaboratively with like-minded agencies.

In August two ISRCSD board members and the Executive Office went to Melbourne to visit a diverse range of services. One of the more interesting was the Neighbourhood Justice Centre, a multi-jurisdictional court with a wide array of support services and community initiatives under the one roof. It is the only one of its type in Australia, combining a court with a variety of treatment and support services such as mediation, legal advice, employment and housing support, counselling and mental health services. It opened our eyes to the possibility of creating greater social and justice outcomes for those in Inner Sydney. Our visit also included the colourful City of Melbourne's Multicultural Hub, an exciting space full of different sized meeting spaces for community groups and agencies. I would love to see a similar space in Inner Sydney.

The year also saw us involved in discussions with Family and Community Services (FaCS) around its newly drafted funding deeds. In an attempt

to reduce red tape, FaCS have organisations sign only one funding deed for Community Services programs, under which then sit the program level agreements.

We continued to provide support and resources to the various forums and interagencies we support, which cover an array of topics and themes. It is one of Regional Council's more important roles – that of keeping across all the different slices of the sector, so as to build a picture of the whole pie. We also provided our usual compliment of training workshops – each adapted to the specific needs of a particular group.

In partnership with St Vincent's hospital, and with funding provided by Mental Health Council of Australia, we convened the 4th Looking Forward, Looking Back mental health conference. Our keynote speakers, Fincina Hopgood, who discussed portrayals of mental illness in the media, and Mahlie, who shared her story of her personal journey through the mental health system, gave us much food for thought. You can read Mahlie's story in the Winter 2014 ISV.

Like many agencies, what we do is a product of the skills, dedication and support of our staff, interns, volunteers, members and board members. We also acknowledge our funders, Family and Community Services and the Department of Social Services, along with the City of Sydney who provides us with an accommodation grant.

You can find out more about ISRCSD from our website at www.innersydneyrcsd.org.au or by contacting me on (02) 9698 7690 or by keeping up to date with our eNews. Information on membership can be found over the page and details of our Annual General Meeting can be found on page 4. Opportunities also exist for volunteers.

Charmaine Jones is the Executive Officer of Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development.



INNER SYDNEY REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The ISRCSD is a non-for-profit organisation providing information, advocacy and community development to local communities and community agencies in the local government areas of Botany Bay, City of Sydney, Leichhardt, Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Local Government Areas.

BECOME A ISRCSD MEMBER

Annual membership offers you or your organisation information via brochures and e-newsletters as well as support, advocacy and access to ISRCSD forums and training. Annual Membership also includes a mailed copy of Inner Sydney Voice.

- \$40.00 for organisations
- \$20.00 for waged individuals
- \$5.50 for unwaged individuals

If you would like to become a member of our organisation, please contact our office on (02) 9698 7690 or by email to admin@innersydneyrcsd.org.au for an application form and more information.

SUBSCRIBE TO INNER SYDNEY VOICE

To keep informed about social issues impacting the Inner Sydney region and have four issues of Inner Sydney Voice mailed to you.

- \$22.00 for organisations
- \$11.00 for waged individuals
- \$5.50 for unwaged individuals

To subscribe please make the required payment and send your name, postal address and payment details to:

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- Social Justice
- Social inclusion
- Community leadership
- Community development

**INNER SYDNEY
REGIONAL COUNCIL
FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

October
1979

Alexandria Goods Yard

Alexandria residents in 1979 were worried about the impact of the Alexandria Goods Yard along Henderson Road on what is now the Australian Technology Park (ATP). They wanted to know the future of the former Eveleigh rail yards. A community meeting wanted any development on the site to be of benefit to local residents.

Many plans later, in June 2014, UrbanGrowth NSW produced a new

Concept Plan for the government owned Central to Eveleigh corridor including ATP and three building sites remaining from the old Alexandria goods yard. This is at www.central2eveleigh.com.au under the downloads tab.

Community groups are unhappy with the level of consultation so far. Not surprisingly after 35 years the community still wants a say in, and community benefits from, any Eveleigh plans.

EVELEIGH PLANS

COUNCIL PLANS FACE-LIFT FOR GOODSYARD SOON!

After several years of negotiations it appears that South Sydney Council has been able to finalise plans for the planting of trees and flowers along the Henderson Rd. side of the Alexandria Goodsyard. This must be seen as a most welcome improvement to anyone who lives along there or has to walk along Henderson Rd.

But what is happening behind the fences? Have TNT or Brambles any plans for expanding on the site? Will there be more trucks and containers in the area with the development of Port Botany?

It is very important that this issue is not separated from other traffic problems in the region.

DIRT, DUST, DECAV.....

Presently the Alexandria Goodsyard (which is part of the Eveleigh Railway Site) is leased to TNT and Brambles as a storage and goods terminal.

Because of the nature of the leases it would appear that neither Company feels obliged to maintain the site. Anyone walking along Henderson Rd. can see the unkept appearance of the Yards...dirt, dust, weeds, broken fences, rotting containers.

MORE NOISE, TRUCKS?

The worry for the future is that the site may be further developed as a container terminal with the expansion of the Airport and Port Botany.

In 1976 Mr. Wran announced that he planned to sell off the Everleigh Site to pay for the Public Transport innovations that he planned.

Alexandria Goods Yard would be first to go.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED

A group of Local Residents and Workers have been looking at the future of the Alexandria Goodsyard, to support the Council in its attempts to beautify the strip along Henderson Rd.

But it became obvious we really needed to know what was going on behind that fence - and the plans for the future. Would there be more containers- what traffic routes would they use - on what terms were the Companies using the site- why should ratepayers bear the whole burden, and TNT nothing.

To date - ** Letters to local MP's, relevant Government Depts. and TNT.

** A Deputation to see the South Sydney Council.

** A Petition has been circulated throughout the area and forwarded to the Public Transport Commission.

A Public Meeting of over 50 residents was held on Sunday, 28th October, at the Alexandria Public School. There was a good deal of concern by the residents that a plan be developed not only for the Alexandria Goods Yard but for the area as a whole.

Concern was expressed over:

- * The need for any development on the site to be of benefit to local residents.
- * The need for more jobs to be created for local people in the area and not just housing for low income people.
- * A Committee was established that would look at ways of developing positive plans for the Goodsyard and that these be presented to the State Government.
- * Council will be approached about the developing of a plan for the Alexandria area.

YOU CAN

Be given further information on this issue by contacting members of the Alexandria Action Group. Anyone interested is welcome to join this group.

Elizabeth Harris
77 Gerard St.,

Alexandria. 699-4771.

INNER VOICE - September/October 1979



A publication of:



**INNER SYDNEY
REGIONAL COUNCIL**
FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

WANT TO HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD?

We are always looking for new voices - opinion pieces, investigative articles, profiles of community organisations, interviews and more. If you have an idea or suggestion then contact us and discuss it with one of the editors.

Contributions are welcome from individuals, community organisations and others about the inner Sydney, eastern suburbs or broader political and social landscapes.

Email: isv@innersydneyrcsd.org.au Phone: (02) 9690 1781