



*5th Healthy Cities: Working
Together to Achieve Liveable Cities*
Conference

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Healthy Urban Design for Women

Women's Health Victoria

- A statewide women's health promotion, information and advocacy service
- Believe that the natural and built environments can promote both physical and mental health and wellbeing
- So why women in urban planning / design?

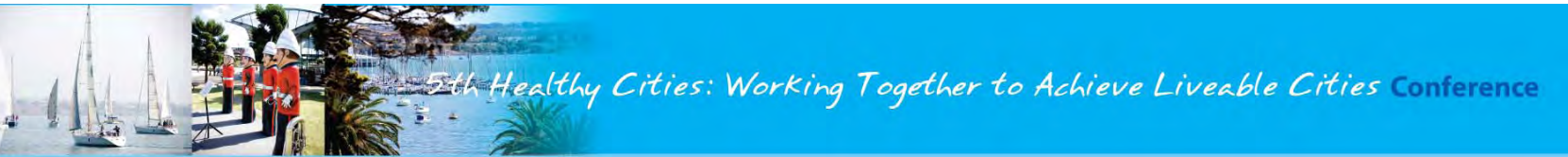




Gender Equity and urban environments

- Gender equality – basic principle in society
- 73% male - 27% female councillors in 2008
- 183 (29.5%) of the current 620 Councillors are female
- Men and women experience urban life differently - due to norms traditions roles and responsibilities

- Cities are concrete / natural manifestations of ideas on how society was is and should be
- Link between gender and planning needs to be made explicit
- There is a relationship between gender space and power – what get built, where, how and for whom (Beall, 1997)



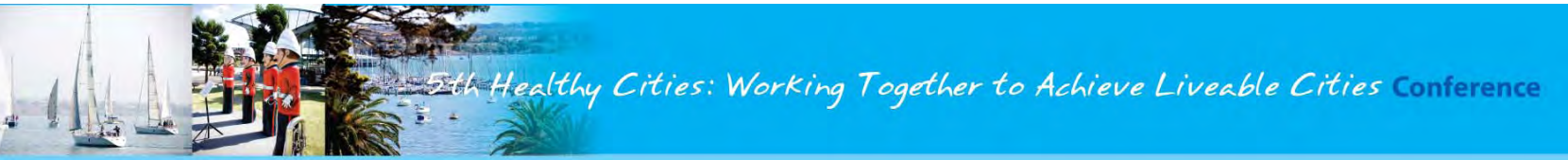
Women & urban design



Women make more complex journeys than men, often in 'trip chains' childcare, school, work, shopping

Careful design & people-friendly environments can promote healthy behaviours including:

- walking
- cycling
- public transport use
- active recreation



Increasing women's use of public space

- Passive open space (parks)
- Active outdoor space (sporting facilities)
- Good public transport
- Seating along walking paths
- Well lit paths
- Clean public toilets



Women's perceptions of violence

- Fear of violence influence how women use their local environment
- Design elements that consider safety enable women to be more physically active
- Fear for violence can alter women's behaviours



Women's employment participation

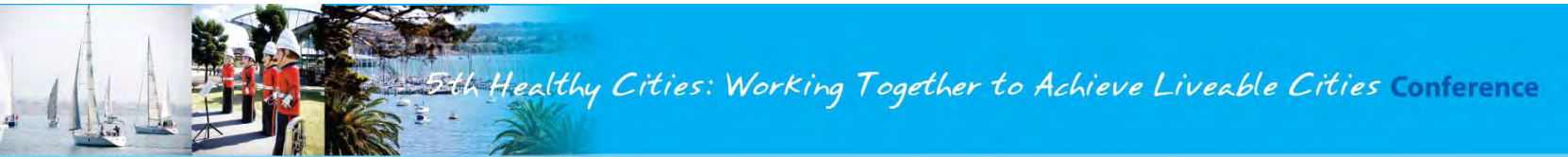
- Impact of separation of residential areas from work
- Poor public transport & lack of child care are barriers to women's employment
- Reduced capacity to experience health benefits associated with paid employment



Affordable housing options

- Housing needs to be affordable and accessible
- Must meet the needs of lone parent families and older women
- Diverse housing stock





Where to from here

- Women's experiences considered in urban design
- Implementation of strategies that enable women to participate in work and leisure activities
- Adoption of principles and guidelines that support the development of healthy urban design
- Gender equity – women friendly cities

Women Friendly Cities - checklist

- Elected representation
- Child care – for work and leisure
- Flexible workplaces
- Transport – parking
- Community / neighborhood centers
- Walkability- accessibility – footpaths / pram crossings
- Road safety
- Community safety – urban design / lighting
- Diverse housing stock



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Women Friendly Cities -continued

- Safe and usable public space
- Recreation access
- Social / cultural development and support
- Citizen participation
- Flexible accessible educational options
- Social inclusion
- Health promotion
- Violence prevention
- Access to municipal services
- Access to health and community services



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Resources

- Maribyrnong Respect & Equity: prevention of violence against women guide for LG
- Gender Equity Local Government Working Group – Fact sheets (led Yarra City)
- MAV and VLGA resources - gender equity
- VicHealth



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References

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Thank you

