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TP-MON-178b HEALTH EQUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN GREENFIELDS URBAN PLANNING

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Background: Sustainability and equity are concepts that have entered public health discourse over the last decade. Empirical studies demonstrating how such new public health notions can be applied proactively and prospectively in urban planning are lacking. Australia's population boom is seeing suburbia expand uncontrollably. 'Greenfields developments' have raised concern about liveability. This study addresses the initial stages of such a development in Victoria, Australia.

Objectives: To illustrate: the concept of 'health equity'; the relationship between health equity, sustainable urban development and environmental justice; the conceptual and philosophical underpinnings of health equity, sustainability and environmental justice; and to show that targeted urban planning, can incorporate all the good, successful and health promoting features of many national and international experiences in new urban design

Underlying values and principles: Tied to the concept of Health Equity are the principles of distributive justice. This project bases these principles on John Rawls explication of what constitutes justice (1971; 1985). This project shows that philosophical notions of justice and fairness apply equally in the urban setting, in the sustainable promotion of equity in health and well-being.

Knowledge base/ Evidence base: An increasing number of publications have been documenting how urban planning impacts on health (equity) and social and environmental sustainability (WHO, 1997; Wilkinson and Marmot 2003; Anand and Peter 1994, 2004; Baum 2008; Brunner 1997; DeLeeuw 2009 amongst others). The facts seem clear: planning impacts on health. The question why such evidence is not being applied, however is much less clear.

Context of intervention/project/work: The Victoria Municipal Public Health Planning framework provides a legal and planning framework to apply this evidence base to greenfields planning. The Armstrong Creek development is a complex public-private partnership endeavour where health considerations can still be applied for urban planning.

Methods: Through literature reviews and interviews with major stakeholder organisations directly concerned with Armstrong Creek, themes are identified common to an understanding of what a Healthy City is. Triangulation of data forms a part of the analysis. The data tool NVivo is used to analyse and understand data collected. Results are linked to research into Australian demographics via the Australian Bureau of Statistics and a number of 'Health Atlases' which allows for rigorous supplementary data. This data will be used to contrast and compare the planned features of Armstrong Creek's development with that of an 'ideal' form.

Results and Conclusions: Urban planning impacts on health equity and sustainability. We will list the potential political and social determinants of health that may impact on the application of this evidence to urban planning decision making.

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