



Welcome to our first issue of our newsletter for this year.

### **Ideas from Other Members**

We thank those members for their contributions. Remember we do encourage you share any information that may be of interest to other members

[Read more](#)

### **Building Community Resilience from the Ground Up**

To boost resilience in vulnerable, under-served communities, we need to “build their adaptive capacity, their ability to work together. We need to focus on the ‘software’ of those communities,” argued architect [Christine Mondor](#) in a session at the [2016 GreenBuild](#) in Los Angeles. Communities

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### **Cities of the Future**

There are many conversations about cities being undertaken at present, reflecting the recognition that cities are important for our social, environmental and economic future. However, the topics largely remain fragmented, often failing to address inter-related issues. This Issues Paper argues that the achievement of a good future for society necessitates a comprehensive perspective on desired outcomes, recognising that at times competing choices or trade-offs have to be made.

[Read more](#)

### **The Trouble with elections**

Modern democracy may champion free and fair elections, but have they devolved into banal popularity contests and sloganeering circuses?

[Read more](#)

### **Equitable Placemaking**

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[Read more](#)

### **eSmart Solutions**

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[Read more](#)

### **Espoo Learning City Festival**

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[Read more](#)

## **Future Role and Contribution of Regional Capitals to Australia**

This inquiry considered the future role and contribution of regional capitals to Australia.

[Read more](#)

## **Article: how social Isolation is killing us**

Social isolation is a growing epidemic, one that's increasingly recognized as having dire physical, mental and emotional consequences

[Read more](#)

## **Mapping Social Cohesion**

This report presents the findings of the ninth Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion Survey conducted in 2016

[Read more](#)

## **Public Libraries: a vital space for family engagement**

In this [Call to Action](#), Harvard Family Research Project and the Public Library Association explore what family engagement is, the research behind why families matter for children's learning, and why libraries matter for family engagement

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## **The Australia We Want**

It asks us to imagine a different kind of Australia than the one we have now. One based on creativity, sustainability, kindness and generosity, where innovation and achievement comes from the ground up, in our schools, communities, and within local groups.

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## **The New Work Mindset**

People often think of careers as a climb up the ranks of job seniority, starting in the trainee cubicle and aiming for the executive offices. Today careers are often not so linear. While virtually every child is asked, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?', only 6% of adults end up in the careers they wanted when they were younger.

[Read more](#)

## **Urban Biking: overseas examples**

After a nearly three-mile bike ride from World Resources Institute to Washington's National Press Club, advocates of city cycling offered advice on how to make bicycles a healthy, economical, environmentally sustainable mode of urban transportation.

[Read more](#)

## **Melbourne's Food Future**

Melbourne is surrounded by a highly productive foodbowl that currently grows a wide variety of fresh foods, but it faces challenges:

[Read more](#)

## **Enabling Pathways**

Since the 1980s, Enabling Pathways have been one of the main ways that prospective students from low-SES backgrounds have been able to enter into universities. These programs, often known as Foundation Studies or Preparatory Programs, provide both access to generalist degrees and enabling experiences to enhance the potential for student success within degree-level studies. This project builds on qualitative research undertaken at the University of Adelaide to explore the experiences of low-SES students in these programs.

[Read more](#)

[Return to top](#)

# Ideas from other learning communities

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## From Parramatta City Library

Welcome to our Summer Reading Challenge for Adults!

### Looking for a challenge over Summer?

Complete at least 10 challenges to go into the draw to win 1 of 3 fantastic major prize packs, each to the value of \$150. Open to Library Members 18 years and over.

There are also 2 bonus chances to enter the major prize draw and a 'Find the image' minor prize draw to be won. Challenge starts 1 December 2016 and ends 28 February 2017.

Pick up your Answer Board, in our Summer 2016-17 events calendar, and hand in your completed board to Library Staff by Wednesday 8 March 2017.

Can't get to the Library to collect your Board?

View all the weekly challenges below and click on each image to enter online. You can also print out your [Answer Sheet](#) to record your completed challenges.

## 1000 Books Before School

*1000 Books Before School* is a program which encourages parents and carers to read 1000 books with their children before they begin school.

Reading to preschool-aged children has been shown to develop early literacy by building vocabulary and language skills essential for learning to read. Given that the average picture book takes just five minutes to read, spending 15 minutes reading three books each day will amount to 1000 books in a year!

1000 Books Before School will start and Brimbank Libraries in **late November**. Stay tuned for more information on the [Brimbank Libraries website](#).

## Two Years are Better Than One

[This report](#), released by the Mitchell Institute in October, presents evidence that two years of preschool has more impact than one, especially for the children most likely to be developmentally vulnerable. The report asserts that it is time for Australia to pursue a national commitment to ensuring all 3 year olds have access to high-quality early education by offering a second year of preschool.

## Adult Lego Club

Want to break out your creative streak or de-stress after a hard day at work? Come along to Lego Club for Adults at the Portland Library. Held on the last Wednesday of every month, it's free and no bookings are required.  
Portland Library  
Wednesday 30 November 2016, 5.30pm - 7.00pm

## **Brimbank Cinespace - *Tell your own story***

Brimbank Cinespace works with culturally diverse residents of Brimbank, including newly arrived migrants and refugees, to develop filmmaking skills, and is designed to develop personal and social capacity through cultural and creative expression.

Come along to a free 3-night introductory 'Come and Try' filmmaking workshop in November. There are limited places available and interested people can register now via the [Cinespace website](#).

[Download the flyer here.](#)

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[Return to top](#)

# Building Community Resilience from the Ground Up

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*Posted November 10, 2016*



To boost resilience in vulnerable, under-served communities, we need to “build their adaptive capacity, their ability to work together. We need to focus on the ‘software’ of those communities,” argued architect Christine Mondor in a session at the 2016 GreenBuild in Los Angeles. Communities hard hit by population loss, declining incomes, environmental degradation, and widespread health problems in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, were the focus of discussion.

Fred Brown, with the Kingsley Association, described how Larimer and Homewood, two predominately African-American and poor communities in Pittsburgh, have seen a nearly 80 percent population decline over the past few decades. There, the poverty rate has hit nearly 40 percent. Asthma rates are twice the national average. And 20 percent of the school population is homeless.

Using the 2Gen model created at Harvard University, Brown's group and others are trying to re-weave a support network for vulnerable youth. "We invest in parents to invest in kids." See a brief video that explains the theory:

He helps under-performing schools become hubs for these efforts, and catalysts for community renewal, providing life-long learning opportunities for parents and help in meeting "basic needs."

His broader goal is to release the "collective genius" of these communities, empowering them to forge their own path to resilience and sustainability. Larimer recently won a \$30 million Choice Neighborhood grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to create a comprehensive sustainability plan, install bioswales for stormwater management, distribute cisterns for gray water reuse, and tap renewable energy. Brown is helping these communities build their "Green IQ," so they can better take advantage of government assistance.

Brian Wolovich, a middle school teacher and city council member in Millvale — another poor community in Pittsburgh with lung cancer rates double the national average — described how he led a bottom-up community effort, with multiple stakeholder groups, to boost community sustainability and resilience.

Working with Mondor's firm Evolve, the community forged an ecodistrict plan that has resulted in residences replacing inefficient light bulbs with LEDs and adding solar panels to save on energy use, and installing rain barrels and gardens to reduce flooding. The community raised funds to build a new library, which is covered in solar panels, and came together to build a bioswale along the Allegheny River, eliminated flooding for multiple families. (Imagine Millvale documents many of these plans and projects, and Launch Millvale focuses on their local food production).



Millvale Library / Hive Pittsburgh

Mondor explained how she helps communities “think like a district.” She argued that “projects alone don’t make change; you need governance.” Governance can be more effective if existing “tribes” are tapped and “leveraged to reach scale.” Communities will succeed if they can make decisions well together, cultivate “authentic” leadership, share knowledge, and create a legal governance structure.

Another way to scale up these valuable community-led projects is to bring in external investment in a responsible way. Eve Picker, who has launched Small Change, one of the first crowd-funding websites for real estate development projects, is looking to help under-served communities like Larimer and Millvale. She thinks these places are “ripe for development because banks don’t want to be in under-served communities; they want to be in booming ones.” Picker finances unique restoration projects others developers have missed along with “tiny houses,” which have proven popular with everyone except banks. She said some \$3.5 billion has been raised from crowd-funding sites to date, but there is a \$480 billion opportunity.

[Return to top](#)

# Cities of the future: what should be their form?

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Issues paper no. 7 October 2016

**Janet Stanley**

17 November 2016

Source:

**Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute**

Owning Institution:

**University of Melbourne**

[Download file](#)

There are many conversations about cities being undertaken at present, reflecting the recognition that cities are important for our social, environmental and economic future. However, the topics largely remain fragmented, often failing to address inter-related issues. This Issues Paper argues that the achievement of a good future for society necessitates a comprehensive perspective on desired outcomes, recognising that at times competing choices or trade-offs have to be made.

This paper reviews some of the challenges faced by cities and opens a discussion on some solutions that may offer pathways for achieving outcomes that meet environmental, social and economic imperatives, with a particular reference to transport. The paper looks at population and economic growth and how transport is being used by international agencies, such as the United Nations (UN) and banks, as a means of addressing poverty in industrialising countries through the promotion of economic growth. The paper proposes an alternative model—the 20 minute neighbourhood—which integrates land use and transport to meet social, environmental and sustainable economic outcomes. It outlines concerns about the on-going financing of non-sustainable transport modes and argues that now is a critical time to change direction and for financial support of the informal transport system.

[Return to top](#)



# Luca Belgiorno-Nettis on the trouble with elections

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Listen now([Link will open in new window](#))

- [Download audio](#)

Saturday 3 December 2016 1:05PM



Image: Voting in general elections seemed right in 1946. But in the complex world of the 21st century is it time for a far more direct way of doing democracy? (Keystone-France/Getty Images ) [Link to larger image.](#) **Image:** Voting in general elections seemed right in 1946. But in the complex world of the 21st century is it time for a far more direct way of doing democracy? (Keystone-France/Getty Images )

Modern democracy may champion free and fair elections, but have they devolved into banal popularity contests and sloganeering circuses? Luca Belgiorno- Nettis believes the problem with politics is that we've lost sight of the genius of the original Greek democracy; a system that relied on political representation, not through elections, but by lot or random selection. These citizen juries, he argues, offer a better way to do democracy - more collaboratively, deliberatively and productively.

[Return to top](#)

# Equitable Placemaking: Not the end, but the means

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“Everyone has the right to live in a great place. More importantly, everyone has the right to contribute to making the place where they already live great.” -Fred Kent, President, Project for Public Spaces

Placemaking can bring people together and create a sense of shared ownership of a city and its public spaces. Through Placemaking, community places not only become more active and useful for the people who help to create them, they can become more welcoming to people of all ages, abilities, income levels and backgrounds.

Since public spaces can both reflect and shape the communities they serve, they become incredibly meaningful places for people working to create more equitable cities. Many underserved communities have been systematically excluded from the prosperity and vibrancy that their city continues to generate for its wealthier residents. When neighbors come together to improve their public spaces, results can be tangible and immediate, and this process itself amplifies the sense of inclusion that great places can generate.

These benefits are often obscured in public debates surrounding Placemaking. Critics have voiced concerns, again and again, that Placemaking provides amenities that are geared toward a specific demographic—that its aim is to make “less desirable” areas more aesthetically palatable, and that it works to accelerate (or even initiate) gentrification by increasing property values and driving long-term residents out of their neighborhoods. Because of such fears, which urban critic Matt Yglesias has termed “gentrificationphobia,” neighbors often resist improvements to the public realm, from the installation of bike lanes to the development of long-vacant properties.



PPS developed The Beach in Detroit's Campus Martius through a Placemaking process. It has become a shared place that brings together, and bridges, vastly different populations.

"It's not always that neighbors feel new development will make the area worse," writes Yglesias, "sometimes they oppose new development because it will make the area better. [While concerns about people being priced out are not] crazy, it *is* crazy that this is the kind of thing people need to worry about in urban politics. 'Your policies will improve quality of life in my community' should never be a complaint about a policy initiative."

Here we can see the fundamental misunderstanding that has led to so much of the concern around Placemaking today. A bike lane is not Placemaking; neither is a market, a hand-painted crosswalk, public art, a parklet, or a new development. Placemaking is not the end product, but a *means to an end*. It is the process by which a community defines its own priorities. This is something that government officials and self-proclaimed Placemakers ignore at their own peril.

Through our partnership with UN Habitat, Placemaking is being recognized as a powerful tool for equitable urbanization in the global south. Improvements to public space (often associated with Placemaking) have come to be seen as a threat to low-income communities because our public realm has been defined by private interests.

This is why the involvement of *all* residents is vital for creating great places. Placemaking offers a unique opportunity to bring people of different backgrounds together to work collaboratively on a common goal: a shared public space. When local officials, developers, or any other siloed group prescribe improvements to a place without working with the community, no matter how noble those groups' intentions may be, it often alienates locals, provokes fears of gentrification, and increases the feeling and experience of exclusion. This kind of project-led or design-led development ignores the primary function of Placemaking—human connection.

In their report *Places in the Making*, an MIT research team led by Susan Silberberg highlights the importance of Placemaking in creating an equitable society:

*The social goals of building social capital, increasing civic engagement and advocating for the right to the city are as central to contemporary Placemaking as are the creation of beautiful parks and vibrant squares. Leading Placemakers around the country have known this for some time, and have been infusing their projects with meaningful community process, building broad consensus, creating financing mechanisms that bring unexpected collaborators to the table, and other strategies demonstrated in the case studies presented in this paper. The canon of Placemaking's past taught us valuable lessons about how to design great public places while planting the seeds for a robust understanding of how everyday places, third places, foster civic connections and build social capital. The Placemakers of tomorrow will build on this legacy by teaching us valuable lessons about how the making process builds and nurtures community.*

Discussions about equity in communities are inseparable from discussions about creating more diversity within communities. As opportunities for social friction have declined, suspicion between different groups of people has risen, further reinforcing patterns of segregation and isolation. But since people read their city by the reflections of local communities that they see in the public realm, our parks, plazas, streets, and squares offer us a tool for shifting local culture. Creating more diverse places is important, but the way to do this is not to focus directly on diversity; diversity itself is a goal, not a tool. To get there, we must develop mechanisms and processes that make people of all backgrounds feel welcome, as co-creators, in the making of places—in essence, we need a more place-centered form of governance.



[Return to top](#)

# eSmart Solutions

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Our eSmart Programs are helping communities teach the smart, safe and responsible use of online technology.

**eSmart Schools:** eSmart Schools is a behaviour-change initiative in over 2, 200 schools across Australia. eSmart Schools provides a framework that guides the introduction of policies, practices and whole-school change processes to support the creation of a cyber safe or eSmart environment. The eSmart Schools Framework is designed to help schools improve cyber safety and reduce cyber bullying and bullying.

**eSmart Libraries:** The Alannah & Madeline Foundation and Telstra work closely with Australia's 1,500 libraries to connect local communities with the skills they need for smart, safe and responsible use of technology.

**eSmart Digital Licence:** The Digital Licence is an online challenge which uses quizzes, videos and games to teach school aged children how to play, learn and socialise online in a smart, safe and responsible way.

**eSmart Workshops:** Workshops are provided for teachers, parents, and students to guide them on their eSmart journey.

**AMF Connect (workshops & seminars):** AMF Connect has been designed to help you up-skill your community in relation to cyber safety, bullying and the impact violence has on children and young people. These workshops and seminars are not directly related to eSmart, but instead provide a range of information on topics related to cyber safety, bullying and care.

[Return to top](#)

# Espoo Learning City Festival: Strengthening collaboration in and across learning cities

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## Espoo Learning City Festival



© UNESCO

Espoo Learning City Festival  
21 December 2016

Espoo, Finland, has taken the initiative in enhancing cooperation between learning cities in Europe. As part of the first-ever Espoo Learning City Festival, held from 21 to 23 September 2016, Espoo organized a conference inviting several learning cities from across Europe to join a discussion on how to strengthen cooperation. Given the similarities in cultural settings and composition, Espoo sees great potential in establishing stronger cooperation across learning cities in Europe.

Espoo has put people at the centre of its development as a learning city, working with stakeholders and citizens to co-create the 'Espoo Story', which is defining the future of the city. The festival provided a setting for Espoo to strengthen collaboration between stakeholders locally, while also enhancing dialogue on stronger collaboration across learning cities in Europe with other participating members of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities, including Sonderborg (Denmark), Cork (Ireland) and Swansea (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). As an outcome of the meeting, the Espoo Statement on Learning Cities was formulated, helping create a foundation on which to establish sub-regional partnerships across learning cities in Europe.

[Return to top](#)

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# Future role and contribution of regional capitals to Australia: Final report

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**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**

24 November 2016

Source:

**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**

[Download file](#)

This inquiry considered the future role and contribution of regional capitals to Australia. The report consists of five chapters:

- (a) Chapter 1 sets out administrative matters;
- (b) Chapter 2 asks 'what is a 'regional capital?';
- (c) Chapter 3 provides an overview of regional capitals across Australia and assesses current trends, challenges and opportunities facing regional capitals;
- (d) Chapter 4 outlines the current funding arrangements for regional capitals, with a particular emphasis on federal funding;
- (e) Chapter 5 examines two plans for how the economic and social infrastructure needs of regional capitals can be met; and
- (f) Chapter 6 concludes with a discussion of policy measures to support sustainable growth in regional capitals, and provides committee recommendations

[Return to top](#)



# How Social Isolation Is Killing Us

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Dhruv Khullar DEC. 22, 2016

Social isolation is a growing epidemic, one that's increasingly recognized as having dire physical, mental and emotional consequences.

Not the long kind of dying that stretches on for months or years. He would die today. Maybe tomorrow. And if not tomorrow, the next day. Was there someone I should call? Someone he wanted to see?

Not a one, he told me. No immediate family. No close friends. He had a niece down South, maybe, but they hadn't spoken in years.

For me, the sadness of his death was surpassed only by the sadness of his solitude. I wondered whether his isolation was a driving force of his premature death, not just an unhappy circumstance.

Every day I see variations at both the beginning and end of life: a young man abandoned by friends as he struggles with opioid addiction; an older woman getting by on tea and toast, living in filth, no longer able to clean her cluttered apartment. In these moments, it seems the only thing worse than suffering a serious illness is suffering it alone.

Social isolation is a growing epidemic — one that's increasingly recognized as having dire physical, mental and emotional consequences. Since the 1980s, the percentage of American adults who say they're lonely has doubled from 20 percent to 40 percent.

About one-third of Americans older than 65 now live alone, and half of those over 85 do. People in poorer health — especially those with mood disorders like anxiety and depression — are more likely to feel lonely. Those without a college education are the least likely to have someone they can talk to about important personal matters.

A wave of new research suggests social separation is bad for us. Individuals with less social connection have disrupted sleep patterns, altered immune systems, more inflammation and higher levels of stress hormones. One recent study found that isolation increases the risk of heart disease by 29 percent and stroke by 32 percent.

Another analysis that pooled data from 70 studies and 3.4 million people found that socially isolated individuals had a 30 percent higher risk of dying in the next seven years, and that this effect was largest in middle age.

Loneliness can accelerate cognitive decline in older adults, and isolated individuals are twice as likely to die prematurely as those with more robust social interactions. These effects start early: Socially isolated children have significantly poorer health 20 years later, even after controlling for other factors. All told, loneliness is as important a risk factor for early death as obesity and smoking.

The evidence on social isolation is clear. What to do about it is less so.

Loneliness is an especially tricky problem because accepting and declaring our loneliness carries profound stigma. Admitting we're lonely can feel as if we're admitting we've failed in

life's most fundamental domains: belonging, love, attachment. It attacks our basic instincts to save face, and makes it hard to ask for help.

I see this most acutely during the holidays when I care for hospitalized patients, some connected to I.V. poles in barren rooms devoid of family or friends — their aloneness amplified by cheerful Christmas movies playing on wall-mounted televisions. And hospitalized or not, many people report feeling lonelier, more depressed and less satisfied with life during the holiday season.

New research suggests that loneliness is not necessarily the result of poor social skills or lack of social support, but can be caused in part by unusual sensitivity to social cues. Lonely people are more likely to perceive ambiguous social cues negatively, and enter a self-preservation mind-set — worsening the problem. In this way, loneliness can be contagious: When one person becomes lonely, he withdraws from his social circle and causes others to do the same.

Dr. John Cacioppo, a psychology professor at the University of Chicago, has tested various approaches to treat loneliness. His work has found that the most effective interventions focus on addressing “maladaptive social cognition” — that is, helping people re-examine how they interact with others and perceive social cues. He is collaborating with the United States military to explore how social cognition training can help soldiers feel less isolated while deployed and after returning home.

The loneliness of older adults has different roots — often resulting from family members moving away and close friends passing away. As one senior put it, “Your world dies before you do.”

Ideally, experts say, neighborhoods and communities would keep an eye out for such older people and take steps to reduce social isolation. Ensuring they have easy access to transportation, through discounted bus passes or special transport services, can help maintain social connections.

Religious older people should be encouraged to continue regular attendance at services and may benefit from a sense of spirituality and community, as well as the watchful eye of fellow churchgoers. Those capable of caring for an animal might enjoy the companionship of a pet. And loved ones living far away from a parent or grandparent could ask a neighbor to check in periodically.

But more structured programs are arising, too. For example, Dr. Paul Tang of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation started a program called linkAges, a cross-generational service exchange inspired by the idea that everyone has something to offer.

The program works by allowing members to post online something they want help with: guitar lessons, a Scrabble partner, a ride to the doctor's office. Others can then volunteer their time and skills to fill these needs and “bank” hours for when they need something themselves.

“In America, you almost need an excuse for knocking on a neighbor's door,” Dr. Tang told me. “We want to break down those barriers.”

For example, a college student might see a post from an older man who needs help gardening. She helps him plant a row of flowers and “banks” two hours in the process. A few months later, when she wants to cook a Malaysian meal for her boyfriend, a retired chef comes by to give her cooking lessons.

“You don't need a playmate every day,” Dr. Tang said. “But knowing you're valued and a contributing member of society is incredibly reaffirming.”

The program now has hundreds of members in California and plans to expand to other areas of the country.

“We in the medical community have to ask ourselves: Are we controlling blood pressure or improving health and well-being?” Dr. Tang said. “I think you have to do the latter to do the former.”

A great paradox of our hyper-connected digital age is that we seem to be drifting apart. Increasingly, however, research confirms our deepest intuition: Human connection lies at the heart of human well-being. It’s up to all of us — doctors, patients, neighborhoods and communities — to maintain bonds where they’re fading, and create ones where they haven’t existed.

Dhruv Khullar, M.D., M.P.P., is a resident physician at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Follow him on Twitter at @DhruvKhullar.

[Return to top](#)

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# Mapping social cohesion: The Scanlon Foundation surveys 2016

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**Andrew Markus**

22 November 2016

Source:

**Monash University**

Source:

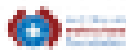
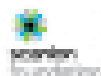
**Scanlon Foundation**

[Link to Resource](#)



## Mapping Social Cohesion The Scanlon Foundation surveys 2016

Professor Andrew Markus



 MONASH University

This report presents the findings of the ninth Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion Survey conducted in 2016. It builds on the knowledge gained through the eight earlier Scanlon Foundation surveys conducted in 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, providing for the first time in Australia a series of detailed surveys on social cohesion and population issues. It includes discussion of public opinion on social cohesion, trust, immigration, asylum seekers, and ethnic, cultural and religious diversity.

[Return to top](#)

# Public Libraries: A vital space for family engagement

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## Harvard Family Research Project

In this *Call to Action*, Harvard Family Research Project and the Public Library Association explore what family engagement is: the research behind why families matter for children's learning and why libraries matter for family engagement.

[Return to top](#)

# The Australia We Want Report

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**The Community Council for Australia (CCA) released ‘The Australia We Want’, report in October. It asks us to imagine a different kind of Australia than the one we have now. One based on creativity, sustainability, kindness and generosity, where innovation and achievement comes from the ground up, in our schools, communities, and within local groups.**

Rev Tim Costello, as the chair, writes in the report, ‘Imagine a humane and sustainable Australia, where people are more connected and engaged in the communities they live and work in, and where this involvement is reflected in the way we form policies and laws? Imagine a generous and kind Australia where we take pride in supporting the less fortunate in our own communities, in our region and beyond? Imagine the Australia we want.’

He suggests that now is the time for us to ask questions of others and ourselves about the kind of civil society we want to live in. That we need to have those conversations in our everyday lives, within our homes and families, in our social networks and within our community groups, in the streets and neighbourhoods where we live, and in our workplaces, so that we can share possibilities, build leadership, develop solutions and learn new ways of being. Our world now tends to be focussed on worries, anxieties, fears and containment. It leaves little room for creating hopes and dreams. This creates a major imbalance in our society. Yes, there are times when pessimism, doubts, worries and fears are useful, they can help us guard against errors, they can make us investigate further and they can keep us safe, but we can’t live in this condition all the time. If we do, it becomes a problem for our health and wellbeing. We must balance this with a creative and learning mind, which builds and holds our hopes and helps us devise creative solutions to problems in a rapidly changing world. The report provides a comprehensive assessment of an emerging national agenda for change. It assesses Australia and the states against a range of benchmarks. The report reminds us that we have the power to change the outcomes and that, as Rev Tim Costello remarks, ‘We are much more than passengers in an economy’. Every individual, family, organization, and community has a vital role to play.

[Return to top](#)

# The new work mindset

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7 new job clusters to help young people navigate the new work order

**Alphabet**

23 November 2016

Source:

**Foundation for Young Australians**

[Download file](#)

People often think of careers as a climb up the ranks of job seniority, starting in the trainee cubicle and aiming for the executive offices. Today careers are often not so linear. While virtually every child is asked, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?', only 6% of adults end up in the careers they wanted when they were younger.

Instead of training for a particular occupation and working in that area for life, some studies have estimated that Australians will make 17 changes in employers across 5 different careers. Compounding the uncertainty is the reality that many jobs of the future don't exist today. The World Economic Forum has argued that "in many industries and countries, the most in-demand occupations or specialties did not exist 10 years ago."

In fact, in Australia, over the past 25 years, we have lost 1 million jobs in manufacturing, administration and labouring but gained more than 1 million jobs in the knowledge and service industries. Amidst this uncertainty, every young Australian has to make choices that will affect their future options like: what subjects to study at school; what courses to take at TAFE or university; what apprenticeships to go for; and what first job they should apply for? While none of these choices are irreversible, they are important because they collectively shape our career and employment options over time. In order for young people to make decisions, they need to have information that simplifies the complex world of work and helps them navigate work over a lifetime. This report uses a new methodology for analysing the patterns contained in millions of online job advertisements, in order to shed new light on navigating uncertainty.

[Return to top](#)

# Urban Biking Advice from Copenhagen, Portland and Beyond

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by **Hayden Higgins** - January 19, 2017

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## **Does the future of city transport roll on two wheels?**

After a nearly three-mile bike ride from World Resources Institute to Washington's National Press Club, advocates of city cycling offered advice on how to make bicycles a healthy, economical, environmentally sustainable mode of urban transportation.

This is already a reality in Copenhagen, where half of all workers commute by bike and biking accounts for 17 percent of all trips and 50 percent of all work commutes around Denmark's capital, according to Klaus Bondam, Copenhagen's former technical mayor, who participated in the panel discussion on January 11. The typical worker in Copenhagen spends only 4 percent of income on commuting, compared to those in Houston, where the cost is 14 percent of a typical worker's pay. In Washington, a relatively bike-friendly U.S. city, only 4 percent of commutes are by bicycle.

Panelists offered five steps cities can take to persuade more commuters to trade four wheels for two.

### **1. Create Political Buy-in**

Let city leaders know that bike riders can mobilize as a political force. Sam Adams, WRI's U.S. director and former mayor of Portland, Oregon, noted that cyclists were consistently ignored until they formed a Bike PAC which endorsed candidates and made donations. Even though the sums involved were small, politicians began to pay attention to the cyclists' concerns about safety and the need for better infrastructure.

Finding common concerns among all stakeholders is key, and a good place to start is the urban economy. Traffic can drag down economic growth, at a rate ranging from 1.1% in New York City to 15% in Beijing.



“One of the key strategies in Denmark has been the National Bicycle Strategy, which brought together all different stakeholders and created a common language in the field,” Bondam said. Building public support for urban biking requires the same tools used to raise the public health hazards of smoking.

## **2. Invest in Infrastructure**

Encourage cycling by making room for cyclists. New bike-friendly infrastructure brought a 24 percent rise in Copenhagen ridership, with a 63 percent increase in a feeling of safety, Bondam said. When choosing where to build, prioritize use and accident reduction, as well as linkage of cycletracks to create full networks. Building “cycle superhighways” that link suburbs with inner cities can be particularly effective. Shared bike platforms, like the Bikeshare system in DC, also play an important part in increasing ridership.

## **3. Combine Modes of Transit**

Biking needs to be integrated with other modes of transport. That means ensuring that buses have bike racks, and making it easier for riders to bring their bikes on trains – a measure that helped expand the commuting range for cyclists in Copenhagen.

## **4. Emphasize Practicality and Benefits**

In Copenhagen, a poll showed that only 5 percent of respondents said they bike for environmental reasons – 56 percent said it’s faster, and another 27 percent said it’s more convenient.

More than a quarter of respondents said they bike because it’s healthier. Bondam jokingly said that Danes like biking because it flatters their Viking roots—“there’s a sense of conquest when you get to the office”—but there’s plenty of research that suggests employees are happier, healthier and more productive when they get in a bit of exercise on their morning commute.

And it’s not just healthier for the cyclists. More bikes on the road means fewer cars, which decreases pollution. Lars Loese, the Danish ambassador to Washington who also attended the event, said 50,000 Americans die every year from pollution, a problem biking can help alleviate.

Bondam also emphasized the degree to which biking is an activity through which families bond in Denmark; more than a third of Danish families bike with their children. Danish kids start learning cycle games in kindergarten.

## **5. Have Patience**

Nothing happens overnight. When asked how long it might take for residents of a U.S. city to embrace biking as Copenhagen has, Bondam responded cautiously: “A long time. Fifty years, maybe.” Not only do investments in infrastructure need to be made, but it takes a long time to internalize the culture of biking into a city’s DNA.

### **Progress is Possible**

The ride to the National Press Club showed that progress has already been made in the U.S. capital: the route followed bike-specific infrastructure most of the way, including a specific bike track and bike lanes down the middle of Pennsylvania Avenue between the Capitol and the White House. It was a glorious ride, in unseasonably pleasant January weather, and recalled perhaps the best argument of all for biking, which Bondam quoted from President John F. Kennedy: “Nothing compares to the simple pleasure of riding a bicycle.”

[Return to top](#)

# Melbourne's food future: planning a resilient city food bowl

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Source:

**Victorian Eco Innovation Lab**

Owning Institution:

**University of Melbourne**

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Melbourne is surrounded by a highly productive foodbowl that currently grows a wide variety of fresh foods, but it faces challenges:

- Melbourne's foodbowl grows 47% of the vegetables produced in Victoria and has the capacity to meet around 41% of Melbourne's total food needs
- As Melbourne grows to a population of 7-8 million people by 2050, it will need at least 60% more food
- If the city's footprint continues to grow as it has in the past, the capacity of Melbourne's foodbowl to meet the city's food needs could fall to around 18% by 2050, due to population growth and urban sprawl
- Loss of production in the foodbowl is likely to contribute to higher food prices
- Melbourne's foodbowl contributes \$2.45 billion per annum to Melbourne's regional economy and 21,000 full time equivalent jobs
- Melbourne's food supply faces future challenges from the impacts of climate change, including water scarcity and extreme weather events
- Other major Australian state capitals also have productive foodbowls that contribute to fresh food supplies, but they are all under similar pressure from population growth and urban expansion. They are unlikely to be able to meet future deficits in Melbourne's food needs

Melbourne's foodbowl is an important building block in a resilient and sustainable food future for the city:

- Ensuring a resilient food supply for Melbourne requires a precautionary planning approach that retains – or strengthens – the capacity of the city's foodbowl
- The loss of Melbourne's foodbowl is not inevitable as the city grows. If growth on the city fringe can be limited to existing growth corridors and strong targets are set for urban infill and increased urban density, the impact on the city's foodbowl can be reduced
- Melbourne can plan for a resilient city foodbowl that provides healthy food for a growing population, promotes a vibrant regional food economy and acts as a buffer against future food system shocks
- Increased investment in delivery of recycled water from water treatment plants could create 'drought-proof' areas of food production
- A 'joined up' policy framework is required to plan for a resilient city foodbowl. Policy is needed to protect farmland, increase water access, reduce and reuse food waste, strengthen the regional food economy and attract farmers to farm in the city's foodbowl

[Return to top](#)

# Exploring the experience of low-SES students via Enabling Pathways

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**Chad Habel, Kirsty Whitman, Jennifer Stokes**

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Source:

**National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education**

Owning Institution:

**Curtin University**

[Link to Resource](#)

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Since the 1980s, Enabling Pathways have been one of the main ways that prospective students from low-SES backgrounds have been able to enter into universities. These programs, often known as Foundation Studies or Preparatory Programs, provide both access to generalist degrees and enabling experiences to enhance the potential for student success within degree-level studies. This project builds on qualitative research undertaken at the University of Adelaide to explore the experiences of low-SES students in these programs.

[Return to top](#)