From: David Barnett [mailto:david.barnett@myacu.edu.au]
Sent: 10 September 2017 10:01
To: GAPPA
Subject: Formal comments regarding your draft global action plan to promote physical activity -- Strategic objective 2

RE: Strategic Objective 2: Creating Active Environments

Dear Sir/Madam,

First, I'd like to commend the team working on this document in highlighting the importance of physical activity to health, generally, and the role that the built environment may play in influencing that behaviour in various populations.

Second, I'd like to make two minor comments that may enhance the clarity of your strategic objective to reduce inequalities:

1. There needs to be explicit mention of the fact that because built environments differ across the world, so, too, may the environmental attributes that warrant attention/modification in that specific city/region to increase levels of physical activity.

   For example, a secondary meta-analysis of current evidence (data taken from our recent publication’s additional file 'Table S1': Barnett et al., 2017 – doi: 10.1186/s12966-017-0558-z) suggests that neighbourhood aesthetics and greener may have a positive influence on older adults’ total physical activity in Asia ($p < .01$) (Cerin et al., 2013 – doi: 10.1177/0898264313510034 (nil findings); Tsunoda et al., 2012 – doi: 10.1016/j.ymped.2012.05.013 (positive findings); Chen et al., 2013 – doi: 10.1007/s12199-013-0334-x (nil findings); Koh et al., 2011 – doi: 10.2188/jea.JE20110044 (positive findings); Inoue et al., 2015 – doi: 10.1016/j.scs.2014.08.012 (nil finding); Lee & Park, 2015 – Article title: Associations of neighborhood environment and walking in Korean Elderly Women: a comparison between urban and rural dwellers, Journal title: Asian Women (partially positive findings); & Zhang et al., 2014 – doi: 10.3390/nu6021076 (positive findings)) but not in the North Americas ($p > .05$) (Satariano et al., 2010 – doi: 10.1016/j.amepre.2009.12.031 (nil finding); Morris et al., 2008 – doi: 10.1093/her/cym067 (positive finding); Hall & McAuley 2010 – doi: 10.1093/her/cyq019 (nil finding); Chad et al., 2005 – doi: 10.1249/01.mss.0000181303.51937.9c (nil findings); de Melo 2010 – doi: 10.1123/japa.18.3.280 (nil finding); Maisel et al., 2016 doi – 10.1123/japa.2014-0278 (nil finding); Shin et al., 2011 – doi: 10.1016/j.landurbplan.2011.07.011 (partially positive findings); Wang & Lee 2010 – doi: 10.1016/j.healthplace.2010.08.015; Michael et al., 2006 – Article title: Measuring the influence of built neighborhood environments on walking in older adults, Journal title: Journal of Aging and Physical Activity (nil findings); Kerr et al., 2011 – doi: 10.1016/j.jaging.2011.03.004 (nil findings); Carlson et al., 2012 – doi: 10.1016/j.ymped.2011.10.004 (partially positive and partially negative findings); Cain et al., 2014 – doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2014.06.042 (nil findings); Ding et al., 2014 – doi: 10.1123/JAPA.2012-0332 (nil findings); & de Melo 2013 – Thesis title: Perceived neighbourhood environment and health-related outcomes among older adults, University of Manitoba (nil finding)); and

2. These environmental attributes may be prioritised in order of practicality/cost. For example, micro-scale interventions (e.g., planting trees and flora) can positively influence older adults’ total physical activity and more easily implemented than macro-level interventions to street design and layout (Barnett et al., 2017 – doi: 10.1186/s12966-017-0558-z).

Thank you for taking the time to consider these comments.

Best wishes,
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