

# Port Phillip City Council

Healthy environments to look forward to

## **Project justification - why do the project?**

The project provided the opportunity to develop new methods for healthy and sustainable living environments by integrating:

- the actions of different departments within council
- council and community efforts
- the health promoting potential of the social, built, natural, economic and cultural environments
- short term actions and long term results
- global issues and local action
- evaluation and action.

The project aimed to connect our communities' reflections and projections. It told a tale of achieving healthy living conditions via long term grassroots thinking, planning and action.

## **Methodology - how we did it**

Council recruited Marg Welsh, the original coordinator of the City of Port Phillip's 1999 Health and Safer Cities plan, to help implement a project that linked the way our community lives out its visions from the past, assesses the work of today and constructs the directions for forthcoming generations.

The project recounted the learning and turning points from the original community-visioning project and found a way of using people's everyday life experiences as a means of testing our collective health promoting work.

## **Partners - who was involved?**

The key partners were the Older Persons High Rise Support Program of the Inner South Community Housing and the Port Phillip Ecocentre, which promotes awareness and action for sustainable living.

## **Outcomes - what changes occurred as a result of the project?**

Council involved tenants from an older persons high rise estate in Albert Park as community data collectors for the Sustainable Community Progress Indicators (SCPI) Project. This has led to further partnerships developing between residents and the Ecocentre, for example, many residents now also participate in counting and tracking Blue Wrens in two beachside habitats. There are interesting parallels between the wrens and the public housing residents: both have systematically lost ground locally, been forced into smaller areas and threatened with extinction. A booklet on the process and learning is being produced.

## **Where to now?**

Our work in this area will expand, as long as it remains sustainable. We aim to ground as much of our work in community-based assessment as possible.

## **Contact**

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