

PIA VICTORIA 2003 AWARDS FOR PLANNING EXCELLENCE

A new category, *Planning for Health* was in the 2003 Planning Awards for Excellence. The category was sponsored by VicHealth and included two commendations and an award winner.

Category - Planning for Health and Wellbeing

Award: Safety First for Planning Scheme Banyule City Council

Citation:

Banyule City Council has responded to the community's concerns about safety in a very comprehensive and integrated way. Safety is an important issue that affects how buildings and public spaces are used. In particular, perceptions of safety affect a person's mobility, independence, social interaction and participation in activities and therefore it affects an individual's health and wellbeing, and also the health and wellbeing of the community as a whole. The project involved developing a Safer Design Guide and a Safer Design Policy, which has been included in the Banyule Planning Scheme, as well as conducting widespread training of their staff on safer design matters. The judges were impressed by Council's comprehensive and integrated approach to community safety, including the fact that the Council had linked its community safety goals in the Municipal Public Health Plan and in the Municipal Strategic Statement as well as State Government policy and guidelines documents such as Melbourne 2030, Environments for Health and Safer Design, showing clear vision and direction to the public and private sector. The training of about 130 staff across all departments was further evidence of their integrated and committed approach. It is currently developing community wellbeing indicators.

Commendation: Bayside Bicycle Strategy David Lock Associates in association with PBAI Australia

Citation:

This report provides a framework of recommendations to encourage the cycling and non-cycling community to better perceive the benefits of cycling as a viable and attractive alternative form of transport. It followed a 1997 Bicycle Strategy with the Council had implemented 80% of the recommendations and spent more than \$200,000 since 1998. It will do this by raising awareness of the benefits that cycling can offer including health, affordability, enjoyment, convenience, independence and accessibility. The project identified a range of potential partners including Vic Roads, Tourism Victoria, Parks Victoria, local gym, cycle shops, local community groups, neighbouring Councils, Bicycle Victoria, local police, cycling groups/ clubs, Department of Infrastructure and other Bicycle User groups. It included clear objectives, monitoring tools and targets and five year implementation strategy, was very effectively presented with lots of examples and graphics. It recognised the vision of Melbourne 2030.

Commendation: Ageing in Your Home – Homewise Kit Nillumbik Shire Council

Citation:

This kit was developed to help the residents of Nillumbik “age in place”. It links to Falls Prevention Program and responds to issues raised by older residents in the Municipal Public Health Plan and the 1997 Inquiry into Planning for Positive Ageing in relation to how Council can assist residents to maintain and improve their health. The kit focuses on particularly removing the barriers of poor housing and landscape design. Its development involved a range of Council departments who worked closely with the community, resulting in a practical kit about house maintenance, kitchens, security, living areas and the like. This is a timely Kit and a helpful transferable model of how Council can provide practical ideas to resolve various safety issues and barriers in the home to enable ageing residents to remain in their familiar surrounding which will promote their physical and mental wellbeing as they aged in place.

Taken from: Planning Institute Australia, Dec. 2003, Planning News. P.5.