



**DESIGNING AND MANAGING SUSTAINABLE  
SETTLEMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE  
HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**By:  
Louise Carrington,  
Bianca Pengilley,  
Sophia Dauber,  
Yusuke Fujimoto  
Geraldine McMahon  
Brett Sutton  
Deon V Canyon**

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# Designing and managing sustainable settlements with appropriate housing and infrastructure

LOUISE CARRINGTON, BIANCA PENGILLEY, SOPHIA  
DAUBER, YUSUKE FUJIMOTO, GERALDINE  
MCMAHON, BRETT SUTTON AND DEON V CANYON

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James Cook University, Townsville Qld Australia

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*"We thrive and survive on planet earth as a single human family. And one of our main responsibilities is to leave to successor generations a sustainable future."*

*UN Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan*



## Preface

Designing and managing a successful sustainable settlement is a multidisciplinary task involving cooperation and consultation between many parties. Sustainable development highlights the fact that all life is interrelated, insofar as a settlement must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

The built environment is not equated with the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of individual residents, but includes housing form, roads and footpaths, parks and other public amenities. The effects of the built environment on social interaction, including crime, are most salient for health and thus sustainability. Independently rated features of the built environment are associated with depression and poor health, independent of individual socio-economic status.

Therefore appropriate housing and infrastructure are fundamental to creating a sustainable settlement in which the population is healthy and happy. Housing of appropriate size to meet the requirements of the occupants is crucial. Having adequate infrastructure to support a community in terms of essential services like sewerage, power, water and adequate waste management, is also important. In the following chapter emphasis has been placed on the rural and remote Indigenous communities of Australia where the issues of overcrowding, appropriate housing and adequate infrastructure are paramount.

This monograph was written specifically for postgraduate public health students in subjects and courses related to rural and remote environmental health. Its perspective, however, is broad enough to

render it useful in a wider variety of subjects. It reviews the current situation in Australia and in other relevant countries and situations. The text covers recent policy, technological developments and public health issues in review format.

The lack of other texts that cover the information presented in this book mean that this volume will serve as a general reference text.

After absorbing the material in this book, academics and students should be able to:

- Define a sustainable settlement
- Develop an appreciation of the history of a sustainable settlement
- Understand the processes that must occur to achieve a sustainable settlement
- Identify the key players and their roles in settlement planning
- Define appropriate housing
- Understand the importance of appropriate housing design and its impact on health and well-being in rural and remote communities
- Know the importance of 'community control' in the development of sustainable housing and settlements for Indigenous Australians.
- Understand the general complexities involved in Australian Indigenous housing design and sustainable settlements
- Understand the importance of a community development model of consultation with regard to the design of sustainable housing in remote and rural Australia.
- Understand the infrastructure required to create and maintain a sustainable community



Three case studies are included to provide examples of the theoretical material. These are followed by review questions and suggested projects which range in difficulty, resources and a list of references used to provide an evidence-base for this volume.

Louise Carrington  
Bianca Pengilley  
Sophia Dauber  
Yusuke Fujimoto  
Geraldine McMahon  
Brett Sutton  
Deon V Canyon

## About the Authors

### **Louise Carrington RN**

Louise is a Registered Nurse with an acute care background and has been working as a Remote Area Nurse in Jabiru NT for nearly 3 years. She enjoys striving towards primary health focused care delivered in a culturally appropriate manner that facilitates an individual's ownership and responsibility of their health.

[loucarrington@bigpond.com](mailto:loucarrington@bigpond.com)

### **Bianca A Pengilley RN MNStud PGCertNSc (AdvClinPrac)**

Through-out her career, Bianca has worked in various different health roles, including from 2000-2006 working as a Registered Nurse in Australia, England, Ireland and New Zealand. She is currently working for the government in a health policy development role and studying for her Masters of Public Health (Indigenous Health) as she is very passionate about improving health outcomes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

[bianca.pengilley@health.gov.au](mailto:bianca.pengilley@health.gov.au)

### **Sophia Dauber MBBS (Hons), BCom/Barts**

Sophia completed a BCom/BArts at the University of QLD in 1999 then worked for a year before going back to study Medicine at University of Sydney 2000-2004. During that time, she completed an elective in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in South Africa at Tygerburg Hospital which instilled an interest in tropical medicine and medicine in developing countries and highlighted the need for a more global perspective. From 2005-2007 she completed her Internship and Residency training and commenced her Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine degree. During this time, she completed a Tropical Paediatrics block subject in Papua New Guinea. As of last year, she commenced specialty training in Ophthalmology which enabled her

to travel throughout rural NSW and the Northern Territory providing eye health care to Australia's rural and remote population and especially our indigenous population.

[sophia.dauber@gmail.com](mailto:sophia.dauber@gmail.com)

**Yusuke Fujimoto MD MPH&TM DTMH**

Yusuke is a pediatrician, currently a medical chief director of Hanshin North Area Children's First Aid Center in Japan. He is a graduate of Kyoto University and a member of Japan Pediatric Society. After practicing for 5 years, he obtained the title of qualified pediatrician accredited by Japan Pediatric Society in 2005. As his interests are not confined to pediatrics but to international public health, he earned a DTMH at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in 2006 and an MPH&TM at James Cook University in 2008.

[yusuke-f@yb3.so-net.ne.jp](mailto:yusuke-f@yb3.so-net.ne.jp)

**Geraldine McMahon MPH Grad Dip Comm Hlth Grad Dip Mid Cert Crit Care**

Geraldine spent her childhood and teenage years in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. She left Moresby in 1976, having experienced the transition from colonial PNG through self government and Independence in 1975, and now lives with her partner in Hobart, Tasmania.

[geraldinemcmahon@netspace.net.au](mailto:geraldinemcmahon@netspace.net.au)

**Brett Sutton MBBS MPH&TM**

Brett graduated in Medicine from the University of Melbourne in 1993 and primarily worked in Emergency Medicine in UK, Victoria and Tasmania until 2003. He worked with Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) in Afghanistan in 1997 and 2003, and acted as Regional Disease Surveillance Coordinator with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Ethiopia and Kenya from 2006 to 2008. Brett was awarded a

Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine from James Cook University in 2007. Since 2008, he has been working as Facility Services Coordinator for a (USAID-funded) child survival project in Timor-Leste.

[drbsutton@gmail.com](mailto:drbsutton@gmail.com)

**Deon V Canyon** PhD MPH FACTM AFAIM AFACHSE

Deon is the International Crisis Management Advisor for the Pacific Institute of Preparedness in Papua New Guinea and a Senior Lecturer at James Cook University, Australia. He coordinates five postgraduate classes for a Master of Public Health program and conducts research on i) crisis leadership in health and emergency sectors in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and India; ii) health service issues for migrants, iii) crisis management auditing in health and allied health organisations; iv) bioterrorism competencies and elearning for public health practitioners; and v) ectoparasite transmission dynamics and human behaviour.

[deoncanyon@gmail.com](mailto:deoncanyon@gmail.com).

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