



Designing for our minds – the new planning frontier

Presenters: Jason Burton (Alzheimer's WA), Robina Crook (Hassell)

Alzheimer's WA's Jason Burton, Head of Dementia Practice and Innovation and HASSELL's Robina Crook, Associate will lead delegates through a journey into the mind and the impact the environment can have on the lived experience of dementia.

Jason and Robina will present how urban design and town planning practice can make a fundamental difference to the way people experience their local community. Designing enabling environments can have a profoundly positive impact on the lives of some 353,000 Australian's.

Dementia is a global phenomenon with someone in the world developing dementia every 3 seconds. In Australia, over 65% of people diagnosed with dementia live at home and will continue to access their local communities - a place that is dear to them. Dementia is predicted to become the leading cause of death in Australia, and one of the country's leading health and social issues over the next 35 years. Are our built environments ready to meet the needs for this significant part of the community? Currently we would suggest not.

Designing dementia enabling environments can be complex and confronting, it is a largely uncharted planning frontier. A hands-on design workshop will reimagine our communities to be more inclusive. The delegates will go beyond simply mitigating this largely misunderstood condition, they will identify urban design principles that will support people to remain a meaningful part of their community.

Jason will talk to the ten evidence based principles in the Designing Public Space for People Living with Dementia report and showcase the Dementia Enabling Environments (DEEP) website. Robina will facilitate a discussion around applying these principles to urban design outcomes. This interactive workshop, will provide delegates with a safe environment to test design ideas for people living with dementia that will a focus on designing the best possible enabling environments.