

Media release
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Save money, meet people and boost business with pedestrian-friendly streets

- Greater focus needed on providing space for people to walk safely in Perth
- Walking is the most environmental and equitable mode of transport.
- Walking has a large impact on sense of place, community, health and safety.

Community organisation Streets for People calls for greater recognition of the environmental and social value of walkable streets.

“The role of walking should be at the centre of how we design our streets and our suburbs,” said Streets for People CEO Shannon Leigh. “Walking is the most equitable mode of transport there is, and has a large impact on sense of place, community, mental and physical health and safety.

“Many Perth neighbourhoods have been built in such a way that they have resulted in increased isolation. Rather than simply being designed as ‘mini roads’ that exist primarily to funnel car traffic, our suburban streets would be much improved if greater emphasis was placed on making them delightful places to walk.

“Walkable environments foster a greater sense of community and identity, and with more people out and about in public spaces, it’s better for public safety and for reducing loneliness and isolation.

“Walking - and cycling - are the healthiest ways to move around our city. Strong links have been found between car use and obesity, while walking to work, school, the shops or to public transport has been associated with improved health.

“Walkable environments have been shown to have significant economic benefits, including reduced congestion-related costs, reduced household expenditure on transport, increased real estate values, increased productivity in workers, reduced physical health costs, reduced mental health costs (associated with social isolation) and an increase in local retail activity.”

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Streets for People is a Perth-based not-for-profit community organisation that uses an evidence-based approach to advocate for the human-centric design of public space. We converse with community and engage with government to strive towards the delivery of best-practice outcomes.

www.streetsforpeople.org.au