Research & Advocacy

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“It’s not just Big Tobacco any more. Public Health must also contend with Big Food, Big Soda and Big Alcohol. All these industries fear regulation, and protect themselves by using the same tactics.”

Dr Margaret Chan - World Health Organisation Director General, 2013.
Research & advocacy

▲ **Background** - Overweight and obesity, discretionary food consumption

▲ **Issue exploration** – Contribution of product/industry to obesity

▲ **Options for reform** – Modelling, analysis of action taken in other jurisdictions

▲ **Local application** – Public support data
Planning and Fast Food Outlets

NO! NEVER!
Not near our school.
What is research used for?

- To advocate for planning law reform

- To demonstrate the health impacts of proposed fast food outlets – *Paczek & Anor v City of Charles Sturt* [2012] SAEDRC 42
## Town Planning Schemes & FFO

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<th>BUSINESS</th>
<th>COMMERCIAL</th>
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Planning and Development Regulations

67. Matters to be considered by local government

In considering an application for development approval the local government is to have due regard to the following matters to the extent that, in the opinion of the local government, those matters are relevant to the development the subject of the application —

- (k) built heritage conservation
- (l) cultural heritage
- (n) and (o) environmental impact
- (p) landscaping
- (s) parking
- (t) traffic generated by the development
- (u) public transport and pedestrian access
Application Lodged with LG
The Heart Foundation wants fast food no-go zones near schools

Local residents show their displeasure at a planned fast food restaurant in Guildford.

CALLS TO UNK PLANNED OUTLET

LEOPOLDO MARELLIS

The Heart Foundation has written to Midland MLA Michelle Roberts expressing concern over the plan to build a McDonald’s restaurant in the proposed Guildford Town Centre, and calling for the fast food outlet to be moved away from schools.

"We are concerned that the fast food outlet in the proposed Guildford Town Centre will be located near schools and will pose a health risk to children," said Ms Roberts.

"The Heart Foundation has written to the Minister for Education to express our concern about the proposed location of the fast food outlet near schools, and to ask that it be moved to a more appropriate location."
Radio Interview
Community Assistance

100 Terrace Rd
Guildford 6055

Att: Philip Russell
Re: City of Swan DA 107-2017

WE OBJECT

My name is [redacted] and I am the Community Liaison Officer for Guildford Family Playgroup Inc, an organisation with over 100 local families. I am also mother to two young children who this development will directly affect. We, Guildford Family Playgroup, strongly object to the development application by McDonalds to build a 24 hour drive through restaurant at lot 18, James Street, Guildford for the following reasons.
Planning for health

The Planning Minister said at this early stage in government she had not considered changes to the Planning and Development Act 2005 regarding fast food outlets.

"However, I understand the community concern over a number of projects in recent years.”

Mrs Saffioti said she would discuss this issue with the health minister as part of a wider conversation on preventative health policies and she was also keen to meet with the Heart Foundation to discuss the matter.
Heart Foundation Information Sheet – Planning and Fast Food Outlets

- At present, the Western Australian planning system does not enable decision makers to consider the health and wellbeing impacts of applications for fast food outlet approval.
- There is significant community concern about the assessment of proposed fast food outlets, particularly in relation to proximity to schools.
- These issues may be addressed through reform to the planning system, including:
  - Greater scrutiny of local government Town Planning Schemes to reduce the number of zones in which fast food outlets are a permitted use.
  - Adoption of health and wellbeing as a ‘purpose’ under section 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2005 (WA).
  - Amendment to Clause 67 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2015 (WA) to include health and wellbeing a relevant consideration. The clause could read - ‘the health and wellbeing of the community, including the likely effect of the development on active lifestyles and healthy diet.’ This amendment would enable local governments to consider the impact that a proposed fast food outlet may have on the local community, rather than requiring objectors to rely on other relevant factors, such as traffic and parking.

What are fast food outlets?
Background – We are overweight and eat junk

▲ Local rates of overweight and obesity

▲ How often WA adults & children eat at fast food restaurants
Background – Fast food in WA
Exploration of Issues

- Fast food outlet density and obesity
- Proximity to schools and childhood obesity
Geographic inequity in healthy food environment and type 2 diabetes: can we please turn off the tap?

Thomas Astell-Burt and Xiaoqi Feng

Research – Children’s environments

Health Promoting Community Design; Nutrition; Weight Control; Youth

Associations Between Childhood Obesity and the Availability of Food Outlets in the Local Environment: A Retrospective Cross-Sectional Study

Laura J. Miller, PhD; Sarah Joyce, PhD; Shannon Carter, BSc; Grace Yun, PhD

Density of fast food outlets

Density of healthy food outlets
Paczek v City of Charles Sturt

- Thornton et al - Density & proximity not significant predictors of FF purchasing
- Fleischhacker et al - 7/15 studies show that higher access to FF = higher obesity
- He et al - Close proximity to FFO leads to increased likelihood of FF being purchased at least once a week
- Currie et al - Some evidence that FF availability has an effect on teen obesity
Paczek v City of Charles Sturt

- Boone-Heinonen et all - Opposing studies on relationship between FF availability and consumption
- Timperio et all – Children’s access to FF did not predict frequency of consumption, no association between availability en-route to school and likelihood of consumption
- No evidence that FF is more fattening than any other food
‘Overall… it appears that the relationship between proximity to fast food outlets and obesity remains inconclusive and contested.’
Options for law reform

Relationship between density of fast food outlets and deprivation by local authority

\[ y = 2.451x + 34.129 \]
\[ R^2 = 0.5423 \]

England value rate per 100,000 population

88
Local action

**EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT KILOJOULES**

Close to three quarters of Western Australians believe there should be more education for the general public about kilojoules.

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**INTRODUCTION OF A KILOJOULE MENU LABELLING SYSTEM IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Four in five Western Australians stated they would support the introduction of a Kilojoule Menu Labelling System in fast food and snack chains throughout Western Australia.

Those who are overweight or obese (BMI ≥ 25) are more likely to support the introduction of a Kilojoule Menu Labelling System in fast food and snack chains than those with a BMI of less than 25 (85% ct. 75%, p=.01).

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Observations

▲ Use networking to promote research and identify potential advocates
▲ Mutually beneficial relationship – advocate needs identified, enhanced research translation
Acknowledgements

- Victoria Jansen
- Michelle Weall
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- Amelia Harray
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