



TRANSFORMING THE BUILDING INDUSTRY:

HEALTHY SPACES INITIATIVE

DRAFT 2

This document outlines the steps we can take together to create significant change in the building industry. To make a meaningful impact, it is crucial that we approach the issue from every angle, working collaboratively across various fronts. By uniting our efforts, we can raise awareness, influence policy, educate industry professionals, and empower the public to demand healthier, more sustainable, and inclusive spaces.

As a member of the expert panel, you will have opportunities to be featured in interviews, media releases, podcasts, and collaborative reports. You may also be invited to speak at conferences, participate in panel discussions, and contribute to campaigns aimed at driving industry reform. Additionally, you will have the chance to collaborate with other leaders in your field and contributing to a movement that aims to reshape building practices globally.

You will also have the flexibility to choose your level of involvement. For each stage of the process, I will send updates on what is happening and how you can contribute. You are welcome to provide feedback, participate actively, or simply lend your name and expertise to support the initiative. There is no obligation to contribute to every stage, it will be your choice when and how to contribute.

The following is a draft of the steps that we could take to create change in the industry. However, this is a living document, and I welcome any ideas or suggestions you may have on additional ways we can implement change.

If you have any questions or would like to explore how you can be involved, please feel free to reach out to me directly at hello@thbd.com.au.

I look forward to collaborating with you to drive meaningful change.

Warm regards,

Maria Faalafi
The Healthy Building
— Designer —

Step 1: Media and Public Awareness

Objective:

Launch an advocacy campaign to raise awareness among the general public and industry professionals about the dangers of toxic building environments and the importance of healthy, sustainable, and inclusive design.

Strategy:

- Launch advocacy campaigns across various platforms (TV, radio, print, online).
- Use social media advocacy to share educational content and personal stories.
- Collaborate with influencers to amplify the message.

How the Expert Panel Can Contribute:

Research and Insights: You can share any research, case studies, or insights for media releases that would resonate with the media and the public, such as shocking statistics, compelling personal stories, or new findings related to the health impacts of toxic building materials.

Media Commentary: Offering your expertise for interviews or provide quotes for use in press releases, articles, or media appearances.

Step 2: Collaboration with Community Groups & Advocates

Strategy:

- Identify and reach out to groups advocating for more inclusive spaces, such as those focused on accessibility for people with disabilities.
- Engage with organisations promoting sustainable housing and environmental conservation.
- Collaborate with health advocacy groups that focus on the impacts of environmental factors on public health.

How the Expert Panel Can Contribute:

Outreach and Collaboration: Participate in outreach efforts to build partnerships with these groups, encouraging them to support and amplify our advocacy efforts.

Shared Initiatives: Suggest ways we can collaborate with these groups on shared initiatives, such as joint campaigns, educational programmes, or policy advocacy efforts.

Step 3: Drafting Recommendations and Policy Advocacy

Objective:

Influence government policies and building regulations to ensure they prioritise health, sustainability, and inclusivity.

Strategy:

- Draft a comprehensive set of recommendations to submit to relevant government bodies and educational institutions.
- Engage in lobbying efforts to influence policymakers.

How the Expert Panel Can Contribute:

Input on Recommendations: Provide expertise in drafting the recommendations that will be presented to policymakers, focusing on necessary changes in building regulations, such as banning toxic materials, enforcing sustainable practices, and establishing guidelines for inclusive spaces.

Supporting Research and Data: Contribute research or data that will bolster our recommendations, such as studies on the health impacts of building materials or examples of best practices from other regions.

Step 4: Professional Education and Training

Objective:

Educate and empower designers, builders, architects, and other industry professionals to adopt healthier and more sustainable practices.

Strategy:

- Education through workshops, seminars, and certification programs.
- Create educational resources, such as guidelines and checklists.

How the Expert Panel Can Contribute:

Development of Educational Resources: Contribute to the creation of content for workshops and seminars, including presentations, case studies, and practical tips for professionals. (paid contribution)

Participation in Training: Contribute by speaking at workshops or seminars, sharing your expertise and insights with participants. (paid and unpaid contribution)

Step 5: Commercial and Government Influence

Objective:

Influence local councils, governments and communities to adopt healthier and more sustainable building practices at the grassroots level. Ensuring that commercial spaces, schools, and other public buildings are designed with health, sustainability, and inclusivity in mind.

Strategy:

- Engage with local councils to implement healthier building practices in public spaces such as schools, exhibition centres, and other community buildings.
- Educate communities on the benefits of these practices.
- Develop specific guidelines for the design and construction of commercial spaces, schools, and other public buildings.
- Collaborate with developers, educational institutions, and commercial builders to implement these guidelines.

How the Expert Panel Can Contribute:

Local Engagement: Provide research to show local governments and communities to adopt our recommendations.

Guidelines Development: Help draft guidelines that focus on creating environments that do no harm to the occupants, those who build them, or the environment.

Industry Engagement: Assist in identifying and engaging key players in the commercial building and educational sectors who may be willing to adopt these guidelines.

Case Studies: Share successful examples of commercial and public spaces (can be own designs) that have implemented healthy and sustainable practices, providing persuasive evidence for others in the industry.



By working together, we can create a comprehensive and effective strategy to transform the building industry. Our collective expertise and efforts are crucial to making this happen.

Thank you!

