

# Summer Edition Newsletter



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## **This 2025 Summer Edition features posts on Co-design Methods**

CUDA's summer newsletters are topic specific containing past posts from the website. Note that some pages have multiple posts, so scroll down to check for them. For more on this topic, or any other, use the search button on left hand menu of [the website](#).

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### Who do we include in co-design?

Academics talk about "vulnerable groups" based on ethics approval language. But what they mean is, people who have difficulty participating because they have a disability, illness, or some other condition. Indeed, some ethics requirements are so protective of "vulnerable groups" that they make it difficult to include them from research projects. Consequently their voices are silenced. So how do we include them in co-design and when?

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### Co-design with older adults

Finding out what older adults might want and need in their daily living experiences takes more than just asking them, especially if they have a cognitive impairment. Using creative methods, such as drawing and creating models, older people can express their needs in a tactile format. This also creates rapport with designers who can then devise better mobility, dining and leisure activities.

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## Co-designing with young people

Student voices are important in the design of health and wellbeing infrastructure. Being young does not automatically mean being fit and healthy especially in low socio-economic areas. The ability to share public space and support services is essential to wellbeing at any age. Co-designing with young people provides opportunities to include their perspectives. Infrastructure development is increasingly being used as ...

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## Co-designing social housing policy

Co-designing social housing policy is a relatively new concept in Australia, so it's good to see tenants involved in policy development. New AHURI research tackles the issues amid the need for urgent reform of the housing sector. Tenant participation leads to benefits for all involved. 'For policy co-design methods to work well, there must be respect and recognition of the ...

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## Transport infrastructure co-design toolkit

Public transport infrastructure in Queensland is undergoing significant design changes using co-design methods. The new Cross River Rail project embraced the concept of co-design to ensure new and upgraded infrastructure is fully accessible. The result is a transport infrastructure co-design toolkit as well as accessible trains and stations. Co-design of large-scale public transport infrastructure spans several stages in the design ...

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## Building capacity for engaged research

Talking about co-design and stakeholder engagement is one thing. Knowing how to do it is another. While organisations and universities like to make engagement central to their work, institutional practices are not keeping pace. Institutional policies, publishing

pressures, and additional time needed stand in the way. Building capacity for engaged research is more than knowing how to run a focus ...

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## Co-creating urban development

The concept of universal design has evolved over the last 50 years, and so it should as we learn more about how to be inclusive. However, many authors continue to base their writings on outdated notions of universal design. So it's refreshing to find an article on co-creating urban development that advances our thinking about the concept. Nordic countries embraced ...

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## Co-design in research: shifting the power

People with disability are often left out at the beginning of the research process when organisations want research done quickly. This reduces the level of power they have as members of the research team. To be effective, people with disability must be in decision-making positions before research proposals are developed. People with disability are expected to be involved as researchers ...

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## Doughnut economics and co-design

The problem with economic models is that they count the things you can count and leave out things you can't. And sometimes that's what can happen with co-design methods - doing what you know and not what is possible. A group of researchers adapted the Doughnut Economics model to create the Futures Doughnut tool for co-design for complex settings. Doughnut ...

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## [Introduction to Universal Design: free online course](#)

Introduction to Universal Design online course is in visual, audio and text formats and there are quick quizzes at the end of each module. This course is good for newcomers to the concepts and a refresher for others. There's a certificate at the end.

Get started on the Introduction to Universal Design course! It will take less than an hour.

Sign up - it's Free!

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## [Livable Housing Design course](#)

This short course is tailor-made for professionals in the housing and home mods sectors seeking an understanding of the NCC requirements for Livable Housing Design Standard. It delves into the technical details of both the new standard and the enhanced standard. The enhanced standard, similar to the Gold level of Livable Housing Design Guidelines, is good for anyone doing home modifications, or thinking about it. **Only \$35.00** inc GST.

*CUDA presents this course under licence from the Australian Building Codes Board.*

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