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3rd March 2012

To Whom It May Concern

I write in relation to the proposed location of a MacDonald's restaurant at 827 —837 Port Rd, Woodville, in close proximity to the Woodville Primary School. I do so as a social planning and health promotion expert who has for many years, been active in Childhood Obesity prevention and community development. Childhood obesity is a significant social and health problem in Australia and governments and community organisations are increasingly allocating large amounts of funds to address the problem. Whilst there is no singular cause of childhood obesity¹, there is research that indicates a link between how close people live to fast food outlets and their consumption of fast foods². There is also growing convergence of views that the best way to address the obesity crisis is to prevent it.

Local governments in different jurisdictions have taken a lead role in obesity prevention and food security. For example the Victorian Local Government Association, in collaboration with VicHealth, has worked to increase access to healthy food. In South Australia the OPAL Program (Obesity Lifestyle and Prevention) has been taken up by a number of councils. Within a growing literature in this field there are now models for prevention that support closer integration between food access and provision, planning and urban design. A Victorian publication (2011) entitled *Food-sensitive planning and urban design: A conceptual framework for achieving a sustainable and healthy food system* recommends an approach known as FSPUD-food sensitive planning and urban design as a mechanism to assess and 'reconcile diverse objectives' (2011: 13).

This spirit of health promotion is also evident in the SA Public Health Act (2011) which has as one of its objectives '*to protect individuals and communities from risks to public health and to*

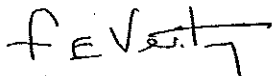
¹ Crowle, J. and Turner, E. 2010, *Childhood Obesity: An Economic Perspective*, Productivity Commission Staff Working Paper, Melbourne.

² Lock Associates, University of Melbourne, National Heart Foundation of Australia, (2011) *Food-sensitive planning and urban design: A conceptual framework for achieving a sustainable and healthy food system*, Melbourne.

ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, a healthy environment for all South Australians and particularly those who live within disadvantaged Communities' (Part 2: 4a).

I do wonder if there is not cause for a more fulsome consideration of this planning development from a public health perspective. To locate a MacDonal's restaurant in close proximity to a primary school would seem, on the face of it, to be counter to Objective 2 of the Charles Sturt Council Development Plan **General Section *Interface between Land Uses*** (2011: 40), that a new development 'Protect community health and amenity and support the operation of all desired land uses'.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F Verity'. The signature is stylized with a large 'F' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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