

The Philips Center for Health and Well-being



# Introducing The Philips Center for Health and Well-being



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The Philips Center for Health & Well-being is dedicated to helping improve people's quality of life around the world. The Center provides a focal point for debate and discussion on significant trends, issues and health aspirations for society. Through dialogue with a diverse range of independent experts The Philips Center for Health & Well-being strives to identify barriers and co-develop meaningful solutions that will have a positive impact now and in the future.

## Health and Well-being

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity!"

The Philips Center for Health & Well-being recognizes that the importance of good health and staying free from illness is understood by everyone. Well-being refers to a general sense of enjoying life and feeling fulfilled, safe and secure. Well-being also refers to the sense of comfort, safety and security people feel in their environment – at home, at work, when out in the city or on the road.

Global themes and issues that the Center will address include studying the impact of societal and demographic trends on healthcare systems, and investigating how cities will change and develop with the rapid urbanization of many parts of the world.

## Keeping Cities Livable

**How can the health and well-being of populations within cities be maintained or increased?**

**How can cities remain livable as urbanization increases worldwide, where citizens increasingly consume energy, demand better infrastructure and expanded access to healthcare?**

With approximately 50% of the world's population now living in cities and urban areas, which is predicted to rise to 66% in 2050, the Center will address challenges facing policy makers, planners and governments in building sustainable, beautiful and safe environments with a high health status.





The Center recognizes that cities are already responsible for approximately 70% of global energy consumption. When planning the development of most established cities, energy consumption was almost never taken into consideration, however the planning and building of new eco-cities provides new impetus for each and every city to consider its sustainability credentials. The growth of cities raises other urban issues, such as disease, crime, pollution or poverty – how can they be effectively tackled? Importantly, livable cities should have a high degree of participation and control by the people who live there. How can the public become actively involved in the development of their own habitat to make sure it is socially as well as environmentally sustainable?

### **Sustaining Healthcare Systems**

**How can healthcare systems remain financially viable as the population ages and chronic disease increases?**

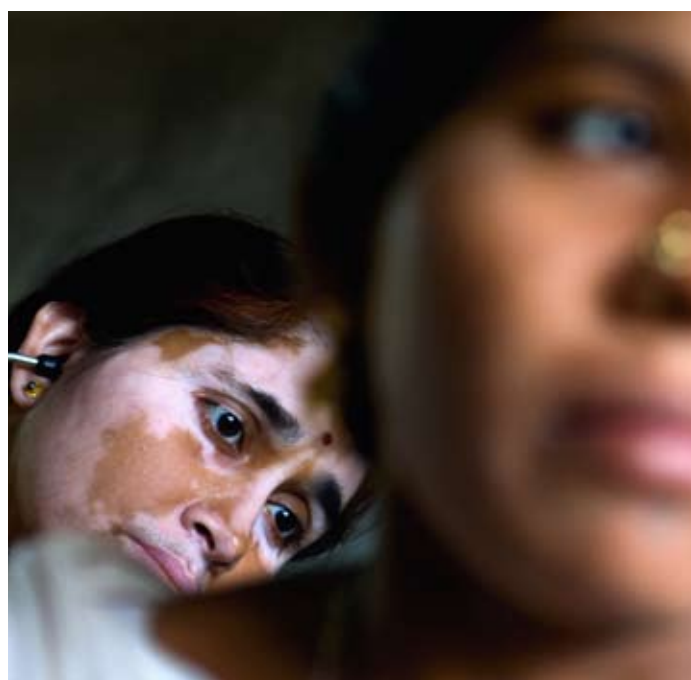
**Can home healthcare solutions be the remedy for caring for patients with chronic diseases?**

As the number of people over the age of 60 will grow from 500m today to 2 billion by the year 2050, the challenges facing global healthcare are significant. As a world, we're getting older and we're requiring more care as we age. Society cannot afford to maintain the status quo as the resulting demands on our worldwide healthcare systems continue to rise – governments do not have the funding and healthcare systems do not have enough trained healthcare professionals. An acknowledged alternative is the delivery of healthcare at home – or at least outside the hospital in the local community. Could home care be one way for healthcare systems to manage the growing burden of ageing populations and the resulting issues of chronic disease management and shortage of healthcare personnel? The Center will debate the role home healthcare can play in the future and the barriers that currently exist around caring for patients at home, whether they are financial, cultural or political.

## How will The Philips Center for Health & Well-being operate?

The Philips Center for Health and Well-being aims to become a real partner and facilitator to identify, debate and ultimately help to overcome fundamental barriers in the area of people's health and well-being. Within the Center, experts meet Philips specialists to work together defining and creating solutions to problems in the field of health and well-being. The Center will approach respected experts in their field and ask them to participate in global think tanks, where a diverse range of expertise, disciplines, cultures and opinions will be represented.

The outputs of these think tanks are diverse and include research reports, product proposals for potential solutions, white papers and meetings masterclasses and conferences. These discussions are open to all with the goal of stimulating further discussion and debate around issues that are fundamental to society. They are available online at [www.philips-thecenter.org](http://www.philips-thecenter.org).



#### Reference:

1. Preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization as adopted by the International Health Conference, New York, 19-22 June, 1946; signed on 22 July 1946 by the representatives of 61 States (Official Records of the World Health Organization, no. 2, p. 100) and entered into force on 7 April 1948).



The Philips Center for Health & Well-being  
Katy Hartley, Director of Professional & Public Affairs  
email: [the.center@philips.com](mailto:the.center@philips.com)  
tel: +31-6-22232801