



# HMinfo Newsletter

[www.homemods.info](http://www.homemods.info)

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## National Home Modifications Conference 2012

This inaugural conference was held September 10th and 11th 2012 at the Darling Harbour Convention Centre in Sydney, NSW.

The Conference Program explored emerging issues within the context of the Government's current reform agenda for the Home Modifications sector. The Conference brought together Service Providers, Builders, Occupational Therapists, Policy Makers, Academics and other stakeholders. Notable guests included the Honorable Andrew Constanse MP, NSW Minister for Ageing and Minister for Disability Services, John Della Bosca, Tony Jones (from ABC's Q&A), with the keynote addresses by Professor Andrew Jones and by HMinfo's own Associate [Professor Catherine Bridge](#).

There were many presentations by OTs and Builders alike - these can be found on the NSW HMMS [website](#), and photographs of the event are on the HMMS [FaceBook page](#).

## Feature Article: Home Modifications and Their Impact on Waged Care Substitution

There is a relationship between home modifications and community care provision. This research seeks to better understand the potential of home modification services to substitute for waged community care services. This is an important investigation for the purposes of exploring innovative and cost effective care solutions. The need for such research is high given the demands on care labour markets within the context of the challenges presented by Australia's ageing population, of whom a majority are living in older, inaccessible housing. However the potential for home modification substitution has been under explored.

This paper reviews current literature on home modifications and care substitution and is followed by case study examples which examine the relationship between care requirements and home modifications. Each case study demonstrates cost impacts and illustrates the variables affecting home modification and waged care costs. The case-studies utilise data from publicly available Australian data reported by Ageing, Disability and Home Care, Department of Human Services NSW (ADHC), as well as details obtained from actual case files which were supplied by Home Maintenance and Modification Service providers, a sector of the Australian Home and Community Care Program. Initial values derived from the case studies suggest that Home Modifications have the potential to be a cost effective component of a consumer directed community care approach. The case studies in this report introduce the concept of comparisons horizontally across the care stream networks. They serve to illustrate the potential of substituting waged care with self-care supported by home modifications however definitive values in the case studies were constrained by a lack of available data spanning the care streams.

In conclusion, the research suggests that home modifications are an under explored opportunity for substituting waged care through self care. However more longitudinal data collection between

## website reviews



The Australian Government's **Department of Health and Ageing**, or DOHA, has a website that provides information to all stakeholders in Australia but has a specific area that contains a range of topics relevant for consumers (eg: families, seniors, adults, parents, singles, teenagers, carers etc).

There is a section on **Aged Care** that goes through the different support packages to keep older Australians at home.

[To go to the website click here](#)

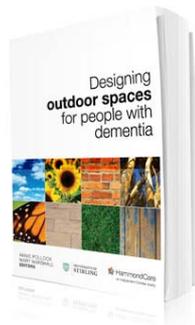


health profiles, care costs and home modification is required for further study in order to paint a more detailed picture of the interaction between home modifications and care provision.

[For the full paper click here](#)

## **Book Review: Designing Outdoor Spaces for People with Dementia.**

*Designing Outdoor Spaces for People with Dementia* is a book that discusses how to effectively use outside spaces for people with dementia. The book is not an academic guide to research but a book for people in practice. It is filled with case studies of real examples from all over the world. Featuring authors from Japan, USA, Australia and Norway as well as the UK, the book provides a review of evidence based research supporting the importance of access to outdoor spaces; understanding how to use outdoor spaces appropriately and case studies from around the world describing how to develop and utilise well designed spaces for people with dementia. The book is written for people who own and commission buildings for people with dementia, Architects and Landscape Architects, Managers of facilities for people with dementia, medical, nursing and care staff as well as professions allied to medicine such as occupational therapists and physiotherapists and relatives of people with dementia and people living with dementia.



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Available at the HammondCare online shop at  
<http://www.hammond.com.au/shop>

Services is the Australian peak body for non-government disability services.

Their [website](#) provides information about policy, events, news and promotes and advances services which support people with all forms of disability to participate in all domains of life.

### **NDS News NDS NSW Annual State Conference - Save the Date**

The [NDS NSW Annual State Conference](#) for 2013, 'The stage is set - it's go time!', will be held on 11-12 February 2013 at the Hilton, Sydney. Registrations will open early December and delegates will be able to choose from a range of dynamic, engaging and practical presentations which showcase how the disability sector can and will adapt to change in key areas such as Holistic Person Centred Approaches, Change Management, and Effective Partnerships.

### **The Home Modification Information Clearinghouse**

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