



Home Modification Information Clearinghouse

Never Stand Still

Built Environment

Newsletter

Edition 35 | April 2015



From the Editor

Dear Sir/Madam,

Welcome to our quarterly instalment of the HMinfo Newsletter. Please feel free to distribute our newsletter to your friends and colleagues.

We have had a busy start to 2015 with an office relocation, and multiple projects currently underway. In early February, we moved the HMinfo offices and are now located on level four, Red Centre West Wing, Faculty of Built Environment, UNSW Kensington campus. It was quite a task moving not only our offices but the entire HMinfo Resource Library. We are now settled in and look forward to welcoming you at our new location.

We took the move in our stride as we continued to work on our research projects and manage the HMinfo site and hotline. We can report that some of our projects are nearing completion including 'DIY home modifications for people with a disability', for which we hosted an industry forum in late February, as well as research on 'Mapping the evidence base on home modifications'. The results of this research will be made available shortly.

Community Engagement

We are happy to announce that we have continued funding from ADHC for the next three years. This will help us to continue to provide our much needed clearinghouse service information website and online forums.

We also welcome new members on our Advisory Committee, Max Bossotti from Paraquad and Nick Proud from Livable Housing Australia. We look forward to their attendance at our next Advisory Committee Meeting in June and their subsequent contributions towards our endeavours.

Research Grants

A Grant in partnership with Mei Boon of Vision Sciences was submitted on the 18 March, for the NHMRC Project Grant funding commencing in 2015. The topic was 'Risk factors for near miss and injurious incidents in older people with visual impairment'.

Website News

The HMinfo website has undergone the following major upgrades:

High Contrast Mode – Background and foreground colours had been previously adjusted across the website to ensure that the websites contrast ratios pass Level AAA requirements of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) for small and large font sizes. Although previous changes aid a significant amount of users and comply with standards, there are users who require contrast to be further increased to

improve the websites readability. Users may switch contrast modes via a new toolbar in the websites header.

Improved Coverage Area Options – Local Government Areas (LGAs) are the primary means of specifying the coverage area for services listed on the websites Service Directory. User feedback suggested that a minor amount of services were listed in areas which they did not service. Upon investigation, some services were found to be located in postcodes which are within the boundaries of two or more LGAs. The coverage area options provided to users has been improved by allowing users to exclude individual LGAs from their listing. If a service's postcode is located within overlapping boundaries of multiple LGAs, the user may select the preferred LGA by excluding the alternative areas. The upgrades enhance the accuracy of the Service Directory search and the user experience during service configuration.

Conference News and Seminars

Catherine Bridge was keynote speaker on: Older Australian out and about in the global context: Their bathroom preferences and what this means for standards development and accessible tourism. Invited paper presented at the **Symposium on Trends in Universal Design** (STUD 2014). Kuala Lumpur

Catherine was also a Keynote speaker for the **Abbeyfield National Conference** – Melbourne

Current HMinfo Research Projects

Fire Safety – Means of Escape

Following 'Fire Safety - Smoke Alarms', the second project in our Fire Safety set focuses on safe escape from a home fire. A revised Summary Bulletin and accompanying new Consumer Factsheet are currently being developed. Drawing on recent fire safety research and recommendations of fire services, issues addressed include:

- Developing an escape plan
 - Methods of increasing the time available for safe escape
 - Responding quickly and safely to a fire alert, especially when residents need assistance
 - Providing a safe escape route
- Set: Fire Safety – Joanne Quinn & Hamish MacLennan

Publications by EBEP/HMinfo Team Members

www.homemods.info/publications-by-hminfo

DIY Home Modifications: Point-of-Sale Support for People with Disability and their Carers

The DIY home mods project, funded by ADHC is in its final year. The project provides insight into the experience of DIY home mods, and the results from the research are intended to inform the development of online and point of sale resources to assist consumers making decisions about DIY projects.

On Friday, February 27th, we hosted an industry forum on DIY home modifications. Representatives from disability organisations, government departments, industry and the public. Part of the forum involved a World Café session where participants discussed the design and content of current and "mocked up" point of sale resources. The discussion helped us to find out what people are looking for in point of sale resources and to have their say in informing the design and development of these resources. This information is intended to assist consumers to make informed decisions about products when doing home modifications DIY.

Literature Review: Mapping the evidence base on home modification outcomes

The Enabling Built Environment Program (EBEP) has completed a systematic review of international research on home modifications outcomes. This is an important consolidation of the evidence on home modifications to date that has not been conducted previously.

Adhering to systematic review protocol, the review provides a clear overview of the outcomes of home modification interventions and begins to examine how research has been conducted to date in terms of study design, strengths, limitations and how home modifications have (or haven't) been defined in research.

HMinfo News Topics

- [ACS Technology & IT Forum](#)
- [More support is needed to help people find accomodation and work before the National Disability Insurance Scheme can be rolled out in 2018](#)
- [Report on 'three strikes' policy for tenants in social housing released](#)

HMinfo Forums

Current Most Popular Forum Topics

- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- International Humanitarian Aid Procurement Service (IHAPS)
- Resources for Accessibility to the Built Environment

If you have any information to add to the discussion please register [here](#) and then join the forum.

Home Modifications Professionals Forum – To contribute click [here](#)

- Access
- Building Products
- DIY Home Modification

If you have any information to add to the discussion please register [here](#) and then join the forum.

Home Modifications OTs Forum (closed forum)

- Access Modifications
- Bathroom Modifications
- External Ramps

If you have any information to add to the discussion please register [here](#) and then join the forum. (Closed forum for OT's only)

Popular Papers:

Top five recent downloads from the HMinfo Website

- [The Effectiveness of Ceiling Hoists in Transferring People with Disabilities - A systematic review](#)
- [Summary Bulletin: Electrical Safety in Bathrooms 2nd ed.](#)
- [DIY Home Modifications: Point-of-Sale Support for People with Disability and their Carers Positioning Paper](#)
- [Summary Bulletin: Environmental Assessment & Modification for Australian Occupational Therapists](#)
- [Orientation: Evidence Based Research: Effectiveness of Grabrail Orientations During the Sit-to-Stand Transfer](#)

Conferences

The ATSA Independent Living Expo – Brisbane – May 7 & Sydney – May 13-14

The ATSA Independent Living Expo is Australia's foremost Exhibition for Rehabilitation and Aged Care Equipment.

The ATSA Independent Living Expo will have over 100 exhibitors displaying a wide range of products and services in assistive technology, mobility solutions, pressure care, employment support, accessible recreation/holiday ideas, modified motor vehicles and a lot more.

ATSA Independent Living Expo is open to visitors of all ages, including those with a disability, seniors and their families, friends and carers. A key feature of the Expos are the FREE Clinical Education Program - run

in rooms conveniently located next to the exhibition floor. Admission is free to therapists, the general public, end users & ATSA members for both events.

See more at: www.homemods.info/events/atsa-expo

Introduction to Home Modifications Workshop - Toowoomba - May 14

LifeTec is conducting a series of workshops during 2015 that will be lecture style with extensive use of photos to illustrate examples of home modification solutions to barriers within and outside the home. Resources and tools will be discussed and participants will receive an extensive information pack. There will be time for group work to ensure participants have the opportunity to share experiences, problem solve and network.

See more at: www.homemods.info/news/introduction-to-home-modifications-workshop-toowoomba

Pacific Rim International Week on Disability and Diversity - Hawaii - May 18-19

Pacific Rim International Conference is an annual conference for social change enthusiasts. The conference brings together civil society stakeholders, policy, experts, government leaders, academics, researchers and disability and diversity advocates.

You may also register for the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD) Americas Regional Congress as well as the many pre and post conference workshops on the same registration form. The IASSIDD meetings provide an exciting opportunity for presenting recent findings as well as keynote addresses about major advances in the biological, behavioral, and social sciences related to intellectual disabilities.

See more at www.homemods.info/news/pacific-rim-international-week-on-disability-and-diversity-hawaii

Website We Like

nvaccess.org

NVDA (NonVisual Desktop Access) is a FREE “screen reader” that can be downloaded to either a USB or a computer, which enables blind and vision impaired people to use Microsoft Windows computers. It reads the text on the screen in a computerised voice. You can control what is read to you by moving the cursor to the relevant area of text with a mouse or the arrows on your keyboard.

NVDA can also convert the text into braille if the computer user owns a device called a “braille display”.

NVDA provides the key to education and employment for many blind people. It also provides access to social networking, online shopping, banking, forums and news.

Go to www.nvaccess.org to check it out.

Journal Articles, Reports and Other Publications

Recent Conference Presentation

Bridge C, Mintzes A, Demerbilek O, 2014. 'Older Australian out and about in the global context: Their bathroom preferences and what this means for standards development and accessible tourism', Symposium on Trends in Universal Design (STUD 2014), Kuala Lumpur, 01 - 03 Dec 2014 (Conference Paper)

Quinn J, Millikan L, 2015. 'Consumer Factsheet: Showering over the bathroom floor drain 2nd ed.', Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, Sydney, University of New South Wales, www.homemods.info/publications-by-hminfo/consumer/consumer-bulletin-showering-over-the-bathroom-floor-drain

Any suggestions or feedback you may have on our newsletter would be greatly appreciated, so please feel free to contact us at hminfo@unsw.edu.au. To unsubscribe from future HMinfo newsletters, please click [unsubscribe](#).

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