



# Newsletter

Edition 36 | June 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.

As most will be aware, there have been some significant funding changes made by The Australian Government in the Health sector relevant to Home Modifications. For instance on Monday the Assistant Minister for Social Services, Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield announced a further 12-month extension of CHSP funding - to 30 June 2018. (This builds on the December 2014 funding announcement, which stated that funding would go through to 30 June 2017). This ensures three years of funding certainty for the overwhelming majority of CHSP providers who provide ongoing support services for older Australians. It also coincides with the timing of broader reforms recently announced as a part of the 2015 federal budget.

There was a pre-election promise from the NSW Government to bring the National Disability Insurance Scheme nearly a year early to the Blue Mountains and Western Sydney. This advanced rollout announced by NSW Premier Mike Baird will give 2000 children under the age of 18 years of age access to early intervention services in September instead of July 2016 as currently scheduled. To find out more details, please read the article [here](#)

The Department of Industry and Science, in conjunction with the Attorney-General's Department, called for submissions on the effectiveness of the [Disability \(Access to Premises – Buildings\) Standards 2010](#) (Premises Standards) in providing access to buildings for people with disability. Closing date for submissions was Monday 15 June 2015. We are interested to see the outcome of this review.

A New Report was released called "A Place to call Home". Over 650 people with disability, their families and carers shared their [housing stories](#) detailing the challenges they face with inadequate housing now, and their fears for the future. They also shared their dreams, their hopes and their aspirations for appropriate housing that supports them to live their lives independently and to the full.

Also some more research, a new study by Gustavsson, Bonander, Andersson and Nilson (2015) downloaded from <http://injury prevention.bmj.com/>. The British Journal of Medicine shows that while softer floors do not affect balance that the use of impact absorbing flooring significantly reduced injury in the event of a fall by 59%. This is a new and significant finding and while this study was carried out in a nursing facility it has implications for flooring choices in home modifications particularly as they relate to bathroom and living areas of known fallers.

On another note, the HMinfo offices have recently had a make-over with wall sized decals. The images reflect the core aims of enabling built environments. The newly decorated space clearly defines HMinfo's presence on level 4 of the Red Centre and reflects the Faculty's commitment to our research.

## Community Engagement

The Centre of Universal Design in Ireland has recently invited Catherine Bridge to participate in a workshop on public space in Galway in July 2015.

## Website News

The HMinfo website has undergone the following major upgrades:

### Home Page Re-design

We have a new look home page layout that is more easy to navigate than previously. New members can now more easily find the “find a Service” and “User Registration” buttons and the most downloaded fact sheet: “Arranging Home Modifications” is now featured on the top. We also have “Frequently asked Questions” and “Popular Publications” and “Whats New” listed on the left plus other links below for news and events.

The redesign was based on feedback received by staff members who frequently support users in finding information on the website, which was critical in designing the new home page.

### Screen Reader Compatibility Improvements

Improvements to screen reader compatibility have been under development as part of the remaining accessibility upgrade. These included:

- Form Layouts
- Service Directory
- Website Platform Upgrade

We welcome our readers' feedback on our website and if you have any problems or difficulties with the way it works, please let us know. You can email us any queries on: [hminfo@fbe.unsw.edu.au](mailto:hminfo@fbe.unsw.edu.au)

## Conference News and Seminars

Catherine Bridge presented at NSW Community Housing Conference – *Better housing outcomes for people with disability* 5-6 May 2015, Sydney.

Toni Adams presented at *Design Requirements of Carers of Young People with Disability*. Let's revolutionise caring: inclusion, innovation, diversity, Carers NSW 2015 Biennial Conference, 21 May 2015 - 22 May 2015, Sydney.

## Current HMinfo Research Projects

### Summary Bulletin & Consumer Factsheet: Fire Safety – Smoke Alarms

This new Consumer Factsheet is being developed alongside the revised Summary Bulletin: Fire Safety – Smoke Alarms. The factsheet provides residents with information on how they can use smoke alarms more effectively in their home, especially if they might take longer to respond to a fire, or need assistance to safely evacuate. It outlines fire services' and researchers' recommendations for the selection, placement and maintenance of smoke alarms for residents of all ages and abilities, and includes a smoke alarm checklist.

## Publications by EBEP/HMinfo Team Members

[www.homemods.info/publications-by-hminfo](http://www.homemods.info/publications-by-hminfo)

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

The final report for DIY home mods project, should be ready for peer review by the end of June.

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.

## City of Sydney – Livability app

We are delighted to bring you the news that the [UNSW Livability App](#) / has been nominated in the category of **Planning and Design for Liveable Public Spaces** as part of this years [Walk21 Vienna Walking Visionaries Awards](#) an aspect of the conference designed to highlight new ideas, big and small, for fulfilling the potentials of walking for liveable communities. The winners are determined by public vote so we would be so grateful if you could take a few minutes to have your say on who wins by voting here – [http://walk21vienna.com/?dq\\_voting\\_submission=the-liveability-project](http://walk21vienna.com/?dq_voting_submission=the-liveability-project)

Public Voting closed 16 June 2015 (noon) and the winners for all the awards shall be announced in late June 2015 after the Jury Voting which will occur in mid-June 2015.

Read more at <http://walk21vienna.com/visionaries/>

## HMinfo Forums

### Current Most Popular Forum Topics – To contribute click [here](#)

- Raised bath bottom options
- Trigger device for showerhead
- Using Google Sketch Up for OT drawings

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

- Access
- Technology
- Building Products

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

### Home Modifications OTs Forum (closed forum)

- Pools
- Rails
- Internal 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

- [Summary Bulletin: Electrical Safety in Bathrooms 2nd ed.](#)
- [The Effectiveness of Ceiling Hoists in Transferring People with Disabilities - A systematic review](#)
- [Summary Bulletin: Environmental Assessment & Modification for Australian Occupational Therapists](#)
- [Consumer Bulletin: Showering over the bathroom floor drain](#)
- [DIY Home Modifications: Point-of-Sale Support for People with Disability and their Carers Positioning Paper](#)

## Upcoming Events

- [Bathrooms Modifications workshop](#) - Brisbane, 26-27 Jun
- [The 14th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons](#) - Lisbon, Portugal, 28-31 Jul
- [Global Communities Joint International Conference](#), Perth, 31 Aug – 4 Sep.
- ['Cultural Competency in Disability' Conference](#) – Sydney 29-30 Aug
- [Home Modifications for People in the Bariatric Range](#) - Qld

## Websites We Like

### Dementia Enabling Environments and Fightdementia.org.au

**Adapt a Home – Dementia Home Care.** Although we featured this website a few years ago, we thought it would be worth mentioning again for those who don't know about it, as this is a very useful tool to help plan or modify a home to help people living with dementia. Using a simple plan drawing of a house, you can select a room to see suggestions for solutions as well as potential hazard alerts and tips to make life easier for people with dementia.

There are also links to view informative pages on various design considerations including: colour and patterns colour perception and contrast materials and surfaces, lighting and orientation as well as way-finding - all of which affect the way in which people with dementia navigate their environment. To see this website, go to: [www.enablingenvironments.com.au](http://www.enablingenvironments.com.au)

## Journal Articles, Reports and Other Publications

Bridge C, Adams T. Design Requirements of Carers of Young People with Disability. *Let's revolutionise caring: inclusion, innovation, diversity, Carers NSW 2015 Biennial Conference*, 21 May 2015 - 22 May 2015 (Conference Presentation)

Bridge CE. What housing works for people with a disability, and what do disabled clients want and need? *NSW Housing Conference - Setting New Directions*, Sydney, 05 May 2015 - 06 May 2015 (Conference Presentation)

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](mailto:hminfo@unsw.edu.au). To unsubscribe from future HMinfo newsletters, please click [unsubscribe](#).

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