



## Meeting Minutes

### HMinfo Advisory Committee Meeting

13 June 2024

3pm

Teams

### Welcome, Introduction, Attendance & Apologies

Konstantina Vasilakopoulou opened the meeting at 3.00pm.

#### Attending via Zoom

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Prof Catherine Bridge (CB) | Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo) |
| Susan Dinley (SD)          | Occupational Therapy Australia (OTA)                 |
| Melissa Decker (MD)        | Forward Ability Support                              |
| Deborah Hammond (DH)       | Occupational Therapy Australia (OTA)                 |
| Douglas McDonald (DM)      | National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)          |
| Nicholas Loder (NL)        | NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC)              |
| Maree Starcevich (MS)      | NDIS   |
| Serena Ovens (SO)          | Assistive Technologies Suppliers Australia           |
| Paul Watts (PW)            | Wesley Mission                                       |

#### Apologies

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Peter Minogue (PM) | 3 Bridges Community                           |
| Kelley Temple (KT) | The Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN) |
| Annette Hanly (AH) | SCOPE Home Access                             |
| Greg Killeen (GK)  | Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA)         |
| Anthony Ryan (AR)  | Young Care (YC)                               |
| Irene Stein (IS)   | National Seniors Australia (NSA)              |
| Frank Riggio (FR)  | A1 Building Solutions NSW                     |

#### Chair - Minute Taker

Konstantina Vasilakopoulou Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo)

## 1. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

Action

### 1.1 Approval of Minutes from 13 March 2024

Minutes were approved by the Committee members.

### 1.2 Follow up actions from 13 March 2024 meeting:

- KV to send link for portable ramp to PM.

Completed

### 1.3 Membership & staff updates

- KV has contacted iCare about nominating a representative at the HMinfo Advisory Committee.
- SD has contacted DVA about nominating a representative at the HMinfo Advisory Committee.

## 2. HMinfo Website

### 2.1 HMinfo Website Report

The Advisory Committee members were informed of HMinfo website visibility in period since last meeting. This included:

- Location of main audience (primarily Australia and the US)
- Visits since 19/03/24: 11.3K
- Popular HMinfo resources: Arranging Home Modifications, Fire safety- Escape, Lifts.

### 2.2 HMinfo Website Development

#### Google Analytics:

The HMinfo IT manager has been trying to restore the Google Analytics and the Google Statistics reports for the HMinfo website.

#### Dissemination of HMinfo website, resources and Apps:

Emphasis will be placed on disseminating HMinfo and its resources to older people. The websites/organisations already contacted are the Engaged (DoH), Community Care Review – Ageing Agenda, Wesley Mission, ADACAS, National Seniors Australia.

KV to contact RVRA and Office for Aging.

DH suggested the Retirement Villages Residents Association was approached for including HMinfo in one of their future newsletters.

CB we contact the Office for Aging, part of family community services or FACS in NSW.

MS mentioned the inclusion of HMinfo in the NDIS Operational Guidelines.

### 3. Publications and Research Activities

#### 3.1 HMinfo Publications

#### Action

##### Recent

- Translation of 3 existing resources
- Summary Bulletin: Home Lifts
- Consumer Factsheet: Staying safe during a flood.

##### Future

- Consumer Factsheet: Staying safe during a heatwave
- Home modifications in heritage-listed homes: Focus on one type of building (e.g., NSW terrace house) and describe 3-4 main types of modifications. One case study would be ideal.

#### 3.2 Other Activities

- CB spoke to Renee Kosch from ABC morning radio.
- KV published book chapter on the effects of regional climatic change on older people.
- CHSP extended HMinfo contract for the FY 24-25. In the process of developing the new Workplan.
- SD and DH presented HMinfo at the Occupational Therapy Association Home Modifications Interest Group. There was a suggestion to include references in factsheets. So, SD and DH recommended HMinfo publications that do not normally include references have a small blurb about what the Clearinghouse does and who reviews the information.

KV to create a blurb for the next publication.

#### 4. Reports from Committee Members

##### SD, DH

- Have tried to find representatives from iCare and DVA for the HMinfo Advisory Committee.

##### Actions

KV to continue asking for representatives.

##### NL

- Getting close to a new maintenance contract which also includes the management of home mods. There has been a big effort to achieve better outcomes, clearer and more detailed procedures, better response time, better contact for clients with medical/disability conditions that require home mods.

##### PW

- Tracking of funding in CHSP is problematic. Providers and clients often take advantage of the funding to improve their homes.

##### Close

KV closed the meeting at 4.14 pm.

**Next Advisory Committee Meeting 12 September 2024**