



The University of Sydney
Faculties of Health Sciences and Architecture
**The Home Modification:
Information Clearinghouse Project**

Advisory Committee Minutes

www.homemods.info

Meeting of the HM Information Clearinghouse Advisory Committee

23rd November 2006

At 3.00 p.m.

J003 Meeting Room,

The Faculty of Health Sciences

University of Sydney

Present

Catherine (Katy) Bridge (Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney)

Anne Reeve (South Coast Home Modification & Maintenance Service)

Ian Maxwell (Orange HMMS)

Jane Bringolf (Independent Living Centre of NSW)

Melinda Paterson (HACC Development Officer, Sutherland)

Rebecca Rodgers (NSW Department of Veterans Affairs)

Joe Harrison (Disability Council of NSW)

Robyn Chapman (Physical Disability Council of NSW)

Apologies

Peter Phibbs (Faculty of Architecture, University of Sydney)

Judy Harwood (DADHC)

Steve Malvern (NSW State Wide Home Modification Service)

Stacey Sheppard-Smith (Aged & Community Services Association of NSW & ACT)

Anthony Ciesolka (Department of Housing)

Esther Tina McGrath (LGA's)

Lisa Langley (COTA)

Catherine (Katy) Bridge (Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney)

Chair

Note taker

Catherine (Katy) Bridge

Notes**Actions****1. Welcome, introduction & apologies**

Katy opened the meeting at 3.00 p.m. Apologies were noted.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

No one noted error and the group moved to accept the minutes as they stood.

Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting

3. Clearinghouse update**Webstats:**

Katy provided a summary of the web statistics for the period from August 21, 2006 till November 22nd 2006. The number of page views to date is 71,490 whilst total visitor's numbers are 12,269. In the period May 06 to Aug 06 there were 33 other countries accounting for 7% of the traffic with the UK (64 visitors, 1.2%), US (60 visitors, 1.2%), Canada (33 visitors, 0.67%), Ireland (30 visitors, 0.61%) and Thailand (26 visitors, 0.53%) accounting for the most traffic. Nevertheless 93.23% of visitors over this period were Australian with NSW accounting for 70.41%.

See attached report

Transfer to HS-Net

Katy presented the HMinfo website development report (see attached) and the majority of the items as originally specified are now fully operational. The new test Drupal website had now been successfully transferred to HS-Net and appeared to be stable. All present voted to now make this the main website with the old architecture website as a backup but without. It was also noted and agreed that several areas still need refinement. There was consensus that the current developer be retained as a consultant but that a local developer is employed for day to day matters.

Drupal website to become main www.homemods website.

Systematic Review Updates

Katy reported that two new reviews were currently in progress these being evidence of home modification effectiveness and barriers to home modification uptake.

See attached

Hot topic Summaries

Katy referred to the new hot topic summary "Modification or Relocation" and the Occasional paper on "Understanding indigenous Australians for more effective provision of Home Modification Services". A number of units and individuals were suggested for review purposes and Melinda offered to send contact details for relevant NCOss groups. Feedback welcome.

Documents to be forwarded to DADHC ATSIC unit, Chris Reagan and LGA peoples for feedback and review

Events & Training***DoHA Universal Design Consumer Information Group***

Katy reported that this reference group had been established following on from the "Building the future launch". The reference group had met both face-to-face and via teleconference. The main aim is to develop 10 critical UD housing principles and to publicise these to consumers as broadly and effectively as possible.

Katy to keep committee updated re developments.

Notes

A Community for all ages: Building the future launch and recommendations

Katy and Judy Harwood since have had two teleconferences with the Commonwealth about the clearinghouse possibly going National and while there is in principle support no concrete plan has been agreed.

Assistive Technologies and IT for managing health and disease in ageing communities - Socio-economic, public health and policy implications

This was a one-day forum sponsored by the ARC/NHMRC Research Network on Ageing Well and held on the 26th of October. Katy presented an overview on the Social Factors Research agendas that were required and were relevant to understanding and improving Assistive Technologies and IT outcomes for older people. Jane who was also present commented on the fact that the lower technology AT (walkers, bath boards etc.) critical to improving quality of life were not seen as sexy so are under funded and under researched. The fact that so many attended was seen as a good sign and it is intended that this is only the beginning of the policy and research networking needed.

HMMS Biennial Conference

Ian reported about this on Stacey's behalf. The conference was viewed by the sector as one of the most successful yet. Most if not all the papers from the conference are now available for download from the Drupal website from the NSW Home Modification and Maintenance State Council area. Ian also stated that a one-day forum to be held sometime in 2007 is being planned.

AHNUD National Housing Forum

The first National Forum on Universal Housing was a great success. Feedback from the Forum delegates was fantastic The presentations from the Forum will be uploaded to the ANUHD website. Following the forum ANUHD held an annual strategic planning meeting to discuss the future directions of the Network in promoting universal housing in Australia. Consequently, a commitment to a multi-pronged approach to the inclusion of universal design features in housing is required and ANUHD will continue to work with Commissioner Graeme Innes on the development of the 'National Plan of Action'. They also intend to distribute a post-forum newsletter complete with photos in the near future.

Other Clearinghouse Projects

Review of Queensland Department of Housings Home Modification Products

Katy reported that Peter Phibbs in collaboration with the clearinghouse and consultancy firm ERM had been successful in winning the tender for this project. Work to be undertaken includes better understanding barriers to home modification product uptake based on literature review, secondary data analysis, focus groups and surveys.

Cost-benefit of care in the home for older persons

Katy reported that the positioning paper has successfully passed peer-review and the final report was ongoing.

My Virtual Home project

Katy reported that Lara Oram was managing this project and that this

Actions

Katy to keep committee updated re developments.

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State Council to keep people updated re developments.

Katy and or Robyn will report back when more information is available

Peter will report back when more information is available

Katy will report back when more information is available

Katy to keep the

Notes

was in progress with a meeting between the software developers and the product manufacturers being brokered in early 2007.

Actions

committee updated.

DADHC Group Homes Design Guidelines Revision

Negotiations are still in progress and it is likely that a research consultancy will be awarded. Dr Michelle Donnelly will be taking the lead role in this and has extensive experience in this area.

Katy to keep the committee updated

Other business

Guidelines and best practice for Home Modifications and Maintenance Services

Katy reported back that this had finally reached the last stages and that the final documents should be released soon.

Ongoing

Accessible washroom for Aboriginal Housing redevelopment proposal

This is a project being developed by Col James of the Faculty of Architecture and Col had approached the clearinghouse for support and advice. The primary target group is aboriginal elders and a mock-up of the facilities is being constructed for public launch at the Alexandria Building and Product display centre.

Ongoing

Next Advisory Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 22nd February 2007 at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney.

Meeting closed at 5.00 p.m.