



UNSW
AUSTRALIA

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse

Never Stand Still

Built Environment

Newsletter

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From the Editor

Welcome to our quarterly instalment of the HMinfo Newsletter. As I write this report, I am all too aware that the launch of the new DIYmodify App draws near, so please mark the 19th of May in your diaries now as this is the day that the NSW Minister for Disability the Hon Raymond Williams will officially launch our world-first home modifications App designed to assist ageing and disabled Australians stay in their homes for longer by supporting home modifications decisions for five relatively simple housing hacks designed to improve comfort and safety. Indeed, we stand on the brink of a technological revolution that is fundamentally altering the way we live, work, and relate to one another. In its scale, scope, and complexity, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, already well underway is unlike anything we have experienced before and our response to it must be integrated and comprehensive, involving all stakeholders.

Apps are just one of the newer technologies and tools that are changing how we do things. ThyssenKrupp showcased its Microsoft HoloLens smart glasses, for installation [stair climbers](#) in April at the Hannover Messe Industries show in Germany. ThyssenKrupp's mission in providing mobility solutions is to help people overcome physical limitations. A home mobility solution is a particularly personal product and it's a tool that preserves an individual's ability to maintain their independence and have full access to their space. The decision to invest in a mobility solution can be difficult - it goes beyond financial trade-offs, encompassing the emotional impact of changing abilities.

New technology removes obstacles from the process and helps turn a potentially uncomfortable experience into one that is quick and easy, and customers are reporting a better, faster customer experience. ThyssenKrupp are not unique in this, for example the US Lowe's stores are now offering customers kitchen remodelling instore using the same technology to completely change the look and feel of a kitchen space - including adjusting the size and shape of an island, and viewing virtual design options against physical counter stools. IKEA stores are also looking at [HoloLens technology](#) to assist consumers with in-home purchasing and one of their design foci is on small spaces and organising. By 2030, 7 out of 10 will live in cities, a critical driver of which is increasing density. For example, Australia is one of the most urbanised Nations in the world and Sydney the city with the largest population has recently established minimum lot sizes as low as 125m² for housing in its middle ring to curb suburban sprawl. Smaller lot sizes are a critical concern given the voluntary nature of livable housing guidance in conjunction with the fact that

more accessible floor plans are currently only available for large lot sizes. So with ever increasing digital disruptions it is critical that evidence based research informs greater innovation, flexibility and assists professionals, consumers and funders to give real consideration to the full range of human diversity. Importantly it needs to consider how accommodation becomes more than just a shelter but can substitute for and enhanced quality of life and autonomy for its occupants.

Research Seminar on 10th April 2017 - Presented by: Professor Satoshi Kose

Creating a Vision of a Universally Designed Metropolis: Towards the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

Abstract: As has been the case with other host cities of the Olympics and Paralympics, Tokyo is trying hard to make the event accessible and enjoyable to all, both visitors and citizens. All cities have their own history, and Tokyo has a physical environment that is far below desirable to accommodate and entertain people of differing abilities, in spite of efforts of around 20 years. Two crucial issues need to be solved in 2020: vast number of users must be served within tight time constraints. Tokyo has already learnt from the International Paralympic Committee Guide (based on the London experience) and formulated its own guide, adding issues where Japan is more advanced plus ICT opportunities. But to what extent the service providers respond to ensure real accessibility and usability is still to be seen.



Events

[ATSA Independent Living Expo 2017 - Sydney \(Sydney Olympic Park 10 - 11th May 2017\)](#)

[ATSA Independent Living Expo 2017 - Brisbane \(Royal International Convention Centre 24th May 2017\)](#)

LIVE WORK PLAY NSW: the state of Inclusion (International Convention Centre Sydney - 17-18th May 2017)

PLEA 2017 Edinburgh Conference - 3-5th July 2017

Publications by HMinfo Team

HMinfo research

Lukman, A., and Bridge, C. (2017). Consumer Factsheet: How can colours support movement of people with ageing eyes or impaired sight. 2nd ed. Sydney: Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Australia. (March). Available at www.homemods.info

Quinn, J. (2017). Consumer Factsheet: Slip resistant floor surfaces. Sydney: Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Australia. (March). Available at www.homemods.info

Bridge, C. and Lukman, A. (2017). Industry Checklist: Colours for the homes of people with ageing eyes or vision impairment. 2nd ed. Sydney: Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Australia. (March). Available at www.homemods.info

Bridge, C. and Lukman, A. (2017). Industry Factsheet: Colours for the homes of people with ageing eyes or vision impairment. 2nd ed. Sydney: Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Australia. (March). Available at www.homemods.info

Others

DIY Home Modification Stage 2 - DIYmodify

The DIYmodify app that the HMinfo Clearinghouse team has been working on is currently being Beta tested. The app has been developed to help people who are ageing and/or who have disability, their families and carers do their own home modifications. There are no other similar apps in the market place that help people with tips and hacks for home modifications. DIYmodify gives people who are ageing and/or who have disability, control over how their home modifications will look and the way that they are done. DIYmodify walks through the decision-making process and provides solutions and options for common home challenges such as steadying in the bathroom or getting up an entry step. The app has been designed to be accessible and is free.

The Department of Families and Community Services, Ageing, Disability and Home Care funded the project and it will be launched by the Minister for Disability, The Hon Ray Williams, MP on the 19th May, 2017.



HMinfo Team



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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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