



## Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting of the HMinfo Advisory Committee

22 March 2018

At 2.00 p.m.

Dean's Meeting Room  
Level 5, Red Centre West Wing,  
UNSW Built Environment

### Welcome, Introduction, Attendance & Apologies

Associate Professor Catherine Bridge opened the meeting at 2.00pm.  
Apologies were noted.

#### Attending

Susan Dinley (SD)	DVA
Lyndal Millikan (LM)	Icare
Bryan Molan (BM)	NSW HMMS – 3 Bridges
Annette Hanly(AH)	SCOPE
Nicholas Loder (NL)	NSW Land & Housing Corporation
Arabella Peterson (AP)	Physical Disability Council of NSW
Jackie Grozdanovski (JG)	FACS-ADHC
Deborah Hammond (DH)	Life Ability
Angela Peri (AP)	Wesley Mission - HMMS
Agnieszka Kuna (AK)	DES – SA (through Skype)
Steve Pretzel (SP)	TADWA – WA (through Skype)

#### Apologies

Megan Roach	Australian Government Department of Health
Lee Davids	National Disability Insurance Agency
Mary Hawkins	NDIA
Robyn Chapman	Assistive Technology Australia
Irene Stein	National Seniors Australia
Anthony Ryan	YoungCare
Lisa Langley	Council on the Ageing
Max Bosotti	Paraquad

#### Chair

Professor Catherine Bridge (CB)

## Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes from December 2017 Meeting were approved.

## No Matters Arising from Last Meeting

### 1. HMinfo Website

### Action

#### a. HMinfo Website Report

The HMinfo Website Report was included in the Advisory Committee Members' document package. Catherine Bridge outlined the key statistics, including:

**Total Page Views to Date: 1,137,733**

(Increase of 12,990 from last meeting's total: 1,124,743)

**Total Visitors to Date: 342,664**

(Increase of 4,057 from last meeting's total: 338,607)

**Total Registered Users: 1,885**

(Net increase of 14 from last meeting total: 1,871)

**Listserv (OT Mailing List) members: 681**

(Net decrease of 7 from 688)

#### Top 10 Reads Since Last Report

Rank	Publication Title	Reads
1	Consumer Factsheet: Arranging Home Modifications	558
2	Summary Bulletin: Regulatory Requirements for Controlling Water Temperature in Bathrooms	287
3	Consumer Factsheet: Hot water safety in bathrooms	260
4	Industry Factsheet: Slip Resistance of Ramps 2nd ed.	234
5	Summary Bulletin: Fire Safety - Smoke Alarms 2nd ed	230
6	DIYmodify Factsheet: CHOICES for GRAB RAILS	196
7	DIYmodify Factsheet: Accessibility	196
8	DIYmodify Factsheet: SKILLS NEEDED: Floor mounted handrail	193
9	The Effectiveness of Ceiling Hoists in Transferring People with Disabilities - A systematic review	185
10	Evidence Based Practice Review: Use of Colour for Safe Movement 2nd ed.	179

### Top 10 Downloads Since Last Report

Rank	Publication Title	Downloads
1	Summary Bulletin: Electrical Safety in Bathrooms 2nd ed.	1405
2	The Effectiveness of Ceiling Hoists in Transferring People with Disabilities - A systematic review	708
3	Industry Factsheet: Slip Resistance of Ramps 2nd ed.	538
4	Summary Bulletin: Fire Safety - Smoke Alarms 2nd ed	531
5	Summary Bulletin: Environmental Assessment & Modification for Australian Occupational Therapists	477
6	Consumer Factsheet: Arranging Home Modifications	474
7	Information Needs of Occupational Therapists Practicing in NSW	335
8	Stairs - A Summary Bulletin	311
9	Cost-benefit Analysis of Ramps versus Lifts	283
10	Follow-up efficacy post environmental modifications; a guide for clinical practice.	254

**b. HMinfo Website Progress**

- CB gave an overview of progress on the HMinfo website during the last quarter and outlined upcoming developments.
- HMinfo received permission from ANDS (Australian National Data Service) to issue its own DOIs, which will enable measuring the popularity of HMinfo publications and demonstrate their impact to the funders. The team is currently minting DOIs for the published research documents.

- HMinfo advancing the Construction/builders forum

**c. Website Development next 5 months**

- HMinfo team is working towards making the website more responsive. The members of the committee noted the difficulty of using and surfing in the HMinfo website from a smartphone. CB mentioned this is currently the top development priority.

- HMinfo IT team to improve the smartphone version of the website

**d. Apps page of HMinfo website**

- The Liveability App has been updated to work properly in Apple devices. The HMinfo team is currently working with IT developers to look at what can be done with more funding.
- The Apps page of the HMinfo website has been updated.

- Look for funding for version 2 of Livability App

**2. Publications and Research Activities**

**Action**

**a. Consumer Factsheet: Hot water safety in bathrooms**

STATUS: Published in January 2018

**b. Summary Bulletin: Slip resistant floor surfaces**

STATUS: Published in February 2018

**c. Summary Bulletin: Ramps**

STATUS: Review in progress

**d. Evidence based research: Lighting the way through home modifications**

STATUS: Research currently in progress

### 3. Events & Training

#### a. Conferences

- Symposium, From room to region: Age-friendly environmental design and planning in the Western Asia Pacific, Kyushu University Fukuoka, 13th-15th March 2018.
- CWUAAT Conference, Cambridge, 9-11 April 2018

#### Action

- Send to AC members the link to the book where CB's paper for CWUAAT was published – <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319750279>

#### Action

### 4. Governance & Administration

#### a. Staffing changes

- Judy Lim transferred to finance in the Faculty of Engineering UNSW as part of UNSW review of admin services.
- Kim Andersen, who is responsible for the new Liveability lab, joined the team in January.

### 5. Non-HMinfo Funded Projects

#### Action

#### a. Australian Research Council's (ARC) Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) scheme: Linked Semantic Platforms for Social and Physical Infrastructure and Wellbeing

- CB stated that as a part of a National consortium we were successful in a *Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) scheme*, funded by the Australian Government. This is a 3-year grant designed to build up all of the semantic web resources and grey literature in Australia, so that they are all linked to each other and share resources. As a result, HMinfo will have some new additional resources to make this possible.

#### b. GWA/Caroma: Washbasin clearances for wheelchairs

- CB informed the AC about the new Liveability lab, where the New GWA Int. funded washbasin clearances research will examine wheelchair clearances to better inform new standards/products.

- Visit the new lab during next ACM

## 6. Other Business

## Action

### a. SMART CITIES

- CB pointed out that there have been efforts to have inclusive environments and accessibility as important parameters of Smart Cities (term which usually refers to sustainable cities) in a new **Cooperative Research Centre** which will replace the existing *Low Carbon Living* program, if successful this may use industry and government monies to bring sustainability and livability better together.

### b. Australian Building Codes Board - NCC 2019 Public Comment Draft: Proposed new Verification Method DV2 - verification of access to and within a building

- NL brought up the issue of lack of education and accreditation of architects and some engineers -who are modelling and are responsible for performance-based design- on access -egress matters. These experts rely on CPD to gain knowledge on these issues.

### c. Regulations on bidets

AK brought up the issue of bidet maintenance needs and the cost implications for landlords when installing bidets with RPZ systems in properties (SD explained that non-compliant with AS bidets present backflow issues and need to be equipped with RPZ systems. The cost of the system and the installation can reach \$ 4-4.5k. The Dept. of Veteran Affairs needs to retrofit 30,000 bidets in NSW.). There was a discussion about the need for instructions to OTs who are prescribing bidets and the cost to the Dept of Veteran Affairs to retrofit the bidets.

- Distribute Hamish MacLennan's paper on wayfinding.
- CB and NL to write a letter to Australian Institute of Architects to point out the need for accreditation on access and egress issues – contact Mark Relf who might be in the AIA sub-committee for access – distribute letter to committee members.
- AK to send the document/checklist they draft on the specifications OTs should follow when prescribing bidets.
- SD ask one of the managers of DVA for the breakdown of how many retrofits there might be in each state.

**d. Matters relevant with NDIA-NDIS**

- SD brought up the lack of tight NDIA guidelines that OTs and participants should be aware of, and which can determine the kind of modifications and assistance each category of participant needs and is entitled to get. This fact has serious implications:
    - Participants having excessive/unreasonable expectations;
    - Public money is wasted (in modifications that are not needed, in multiple OT assessments, in participants appeals against OTs, etc);
    - OT businesses are threatened (OTs are getting APHRA complaints, companies are not being paid by unsatisfied participants) or even close down when they do not satisfy the participants unreasonable expectations.
  - SD mentioned that the families of participants who get home modifications, often ask for 24h care for their family member with a disability. She suggested that there should be a better balance between the home modifications and the care the participants get, as the cost is considerably increased. Also, some of the modifications might not be needed if 24h care was initially provided or programmed.
  - CB also mentioned that the time for a plan to be approved from NDIA is too long. Often, the participants needs have changed within this period and the prescribed modifications are no longer useful or adequate.
  - LM mentioned that the input iCare gets from OTs is that their expertise is not recognized and that the NDIS assessors that take decisions are not peers but bureaucrats or inexperienced in AT and home modifications so lack a knowledge framework to inform optimal decisions.
  - There no standards or benchmarks against which a home modification/AT plan can be assessed. Currently, there is little evidence to benchmark against, thus there are cases where decisions cannot be made about plans.
- Committee members can provide evidence for HMinfo to put it together/ put call out in OT and Construction listservs.
  - Provide information for consumers on the first page of HMinfo website

**Close**

Professor Catherine Bridge closed the meeting at 4.16pm.

**Next Advisory Committee Meeting**

21 June 2018 (Rescheduled for the 28 June 2018)

UNSW Built Environment at 2.00pm