



Advisory Committee Minutes

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Meeting of the HM Information Clearinghouse Advisory Committee

4 March 2010

At 2.16 p.m.

Meeting Room 2046

**Level Two Red Centre, West Wing,
The Faculty of the Built Environment
University of NSW**

Present:

David Gonzalez - Lifetime Care and Support Authority
Ian Maxwell - Wesley HMMS (left meeting at 3pm)
Jordana Goodman - Physical Disability Council of NSW
Lesley Radbron - Lifetime Care and Support Authority
Maj-Britt Engelhardt - NSW Dept of Ageing Disability and Homecare
Margaret Kay – NSW Council of Social Services
Mark Flynn - NSW Dept of Ageing Disability and Homecare
Nicholas Loder - (Department Housing)
Roslyn Barlow - SCOPE Access
Stacey Sheppard - via teleconference

Apologies:

Amelia Starr - Disability Council of NSW
Anne-Marie Elias - Council on the Ageing
Claudia Kennedy - Secondment for 6 mths - M.Engelhardt in her place
Peter Phibbs - UNSW
Richard MacKintosh - NSW Dept of Housing – Northern Division
Robyn Chapman - Independent Living Centre of NSW
Ruth Robinson - Physical Disability Council of NSW
Sandra Lightfoot Collins - NSW Health Dept
Shalla Thomas - NSW Home Modification & Maintenance State Council
Steven Malvern – NSW Statewide Home Modification Service

Chair:

A/P Catherine Bridge (UNSW)

Notes:

Louisa Achille

1. Welcome, introduction & apologies

Dr Catherine Bridge opened the meeting at 2.16 p.m. Apologies were noted.

Minutes from the last meeting were accepted and passed.

2. Clearinghouse update

Webstats: The quarterly webstats report was tabled and spoken to, including:

- An explanation of the various users categories was given and the difference between 'Registered Users' (i.e. ability to log-into website, post news items and publications and sent email updates) - 468, 'Blocked Users' (i.e. Users that are currently waiting to be approved or denied access. Pending provision of further information with a disclaimer regarding the policies of the website) - 1, 'Rejected Users' (i.e. spammers etc. If a 'blocked user' is unable to provide this information within two weeks then they are rejected and their user application deleted from the system) – 1044. A user registration request is dealt with within 24 hours of notification.
- Registered Users are voluntary and a lot of OT's, Government employees, Home Maintenance and Modification Services, construction industry and consumer groups are registrants.
- HMinfo Clearinghouse website receives approximately 2 requests for registration per day and approximately 40 per month and all information is provided by registrants is confidential and of a vocational nature such as years experience, industry etc.
- Maj-Brit - queried whether this could be a good tool to collect statistics pertaining to a particular region?
- CB – it could but the DRUPAL system as it currently exists has not been set up to have a data collection facility attached to it apart from counters for downloads, Google analytics and numbers and type of users. So to add a new module or additional code would be a design and programming issue and as such would need to be costed, prioritised and then outsourced to an IT consultant. Ashley Maher is our current DRUPAL and website consultant.
- IM – Could this system potentially collect any data on what the users return to the site for? Eg: specifics?
- CB – Yes, and we do collect data like that presented in our webstats reports and in terms of number of downloads for each publication but not against individual registered users. This is because, the majority of users are 'click and download' meaning that they enter the site for a particular piece of information and then leave it as soon as they have found what they wanted. However, in the future we are aiming to move from 'push' to 'pull' i.e. more people will be able to contribute materials more easily so we can build the evidence faster. We want users to tell us what information we have missed, what they value and to alert us of any anecdotal, unpublished and/or new publications relevant to research being conducted or shared via the website.
- 15,619 visitors since last report and of that number 1,138 were return users.
- Top country since last report was United States (for the first time ever) with 6,136 visitors, followed by Australia, United Kingdom, Canada, India and Singapore. The US has a larger population base and as this is the only website of its type in the world this illustrates that it is a valued international resource.
- In terms of regions, NSW is the biggest user, with every state and territory in

Australia along with California, Washington, Texas, New York and Florida from the US, London from the UK and Ontario from Canada being represented.

- Sydney is the top city with 1,377 users followed by Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.
- Internet Explorer is still most popular browser (11,480 visitors) but use by mobile phone browsers is increasing. Mobile phone users are likely to continue to increase as many OT's and healthcare employees will want to access evidence on demand and this may be at a client's residence etc. A few Area Health Services are currently piloting this and this will become more advantageous with the advent of new technologies such as the Apple iPad.

Please refer to WebStats report for further details.

Top 10 downloads

Rank	Publication Title	Reads
1	Consumer Factsheet: - Arranging Home Modifications	2303
2	Dementia design guidelines: Home and Community Care Capital Works Program (2 nd edition)	2031
3	Industry Checklist: designing home environments for people with problems with cognition who display aggressive or self-injurious behaviour	1867
4	Home smoke alarm: Hard wired and battery-powered systems- summary bulletin	1744
5	Gardening at home: Summary bulletin	1612
6	Industry Factsheet: Designing home environments for people with problems with cognition who display aggressive or self-injurious behaviour	1357
7	Evidence Based Research: Designing home environments for people with problems with cognition who display aggressive or self-injurious behaviour	1300
8	Thermostatic mixing valves- summary bulletin	1196
9	Understanding Aboriginal Australians for more effective provision of home modification services- summary bulletin	1149
10	Electrical Safety in the Bathroom – Summary Bulletin	1026

3. Deliverables

- Home design and modifications and their impact on carers and waged staff to support people with a disability and/or ageing.
 - This report started off slowly but is well on its way. It is currently in draft form as a literature review and is on track to completion by June 30th.
 - The report addresses levels and types of care. A systematic literature search has been completed and we are working with the Home Maintenance and Modification Services in the development of case studies demonstrating cost implications of substitution.
- Review of Aboriginal Housing guidelines in relation to adequacy and appropriateness of functional impairment provisions.
 - A systematic literature search has been completed and here have been a number of discussions with aboriginal groups such as the MJD Foundation, which seeks to provide a better quality of life for Indigenous Australian sufferers of Machado Joseph Disease and their families in Arnhem Land and beyond. Because of the complexity and difficulty locating good practice case examples the project is taking longer than expected and a draft is not yet ready for consultation.
 - Nicholas to speak with Aboriginal Housing representative and send through

- the necessary information.
- CB to draft an attention-directing framework in checklist form identifying the physical (climatically); social (attitude to disabilities) and cultural (kinship relations etc) factors relevant to best practice housing outcomes. For instance, achieving level access can be difficult for a number of reasons i.e. in the tropical North there are issues with monsoons and wildlife. Thus one-size fits all approach is unlikely to be practicable.
- Training and education of home modification and Allied Health Staff
 - Lyndal Millikan has been the project manager for this and has collaborated with Home Maintenance and Modification Services State Council Occupational Therapist to ensure that the Fact Sheet Series is based on evidence and current scholarship in the topic area.
 - SS informed the committee that she has received overwhelming positive feedback from industry and consumer alike in regards to the HMinfo Factsheets.
 - CB discussed in more detail the training materials that the HMinfo Clearing website provides such as you-tube clip and we plan to share more relevant podcasts to assist users evidence-based practice and in helping first-time users to access the available evidence more easily.
- Home Modification Information Clearinghouse Website
 - A program of website upgrading and enhancement is progressing but this depends on resources and hosting environment (e.g. Ac3 etc.)
 - CB described a new module that she would like to introduce on the website called 'E-Journal' <http://drupal.org/project/ejournal> This DRUPAL module is a powerful production publishing system. It allows you to create and control an electronic (and possibly printed) journal, add authors and editors. The Open Journal System, that is online submission and manuscript tracking system, inspired this module. Moving to International journal status will enable better academic credits such as inclusion in the Higher Education Research *Data Collection (HERDC)* and Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA). This is important because research standing and resource allocation depend on this. CB as a University researcher is under pressure to provide evidence at this level and this is a win-win situation for the following reasons.
 - Manage Peer review from domestic through to international.
 - All Electronic Journals so much more cost effective.
 - Imperial Research Stream, design guidelines.
 - Inclusive Design E-General – first of its kind internationally which will garner far more credibility. Will be possible for other academics to publish – build evidence based with less cost.
 - E-General no publication costs.
 - Creative Commons – no fee
 - Ed Steinfeld and CB will chose where it goes and same costs involved to do reviews. Will be an initial start up cost of developing templates and managing the editorial. Will all need to be co-ordinated. **CB to request a costing for module installation and customisation, with a view to having this happen towards the end of 2010.**
- Rural & Remote - redone and handed out.
- Colour: Industry Factsheet - redone and handed out.
- Colour: Industry Checklist - redone and handed out.

4. Events and Training

- Comparative Housing Research: Approaches and Policy Challenges in a New

- International Era, at the OTB Research Institute and the Faculty of Architecture at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands on 24/25 March 10.
- AHURI paid for CB to attend the Comparative Housing Conference with the intent of negotiating an international comparative piece of research around the European Union Investigation of Demographic change in Housing Wealth across Europe (DEMHOW) work <www.demhow.bham.ac.uk/>.
- Andrew and CB submitted abstracts and both were accepted.
- The Australian Association of Gerontology Rural Division Conference on 'Ageing at home: sustainable housing and communities for older people'- CB will present a keynote address on day two called 'Social sustainability and the Environment'.
- FBE symposium on Housing and Older People at the International Federation on Ageing 10th Global Conference 2010 'Climate Change: Ageing into the Future'. CB, and other UNSW researchers will present a symposium on "Home Truths".
- ICADI – International Conference on Ageing, Disability and Independence will take place in the UK in September and is a biannual conference and the only international conference that includes a home modification stream. Ed Steinfeld will be the Convener and CB will take part to some degree.
- NSW HMMS Biennial Conference will take place in September and Stacey explained the background to the event and that she wrote to CB in regards to preparing something for this state conference. CB suggested that HMinfo will put on a workshop entitled from Quality Assurance to Masters and Beyond which will provide information in relation to how quality assurance data can be used in Masters research and other studies.
- FICCDAT – Festival of International Conferences on Care-giving, Disability, Ageing and Technology will take place in June 2011 in Toronto. Jeff Furney and Ed Steinfeld are heavily involved in this conference and there will be a home modification stream. CB will be involved in some capacity.
- 3rd International Conference for Universal Design in Hamamatsu will take place in October this year. CB has been invited to be a reviewer for academic papers by Satoshi Kose <<http://homepage2.nifty.com/skose/papersSK.htm>> who has been a leader of universal design Internationally.
- NSW Falls Conference – last year HMinfo teamed up with the Independent Living Centre to put on a trade display. The last conference was on site at UNSW and possible that this one will take place at UNSW also. **CB will email this information to all committee members.**

5. Other Funded Projects

- CB involved with Sustaining 'aging in place': Towards a multidimensional analysis of informal care within the Asia pacific region for the Association of Pacific Rim Universities, Institute of Gerontology, University of Tokyo Partner. This project was funded by a Japanese company and involved interviews in each country with a policy focus and is now complete.
- AHURI – Age Specific Housing Markets and housing and care for low to moderate income older persons – this is due in September and the positioning paper has been submitted for peer-review.
- AHURI – Older People's Housing Policy: An Essay – CB and Andrew Jones (University Of Queensland).
NL – is this about the quality of housing for older people?
CB – No it is a commissioned essay intended to take a helicopter view. It will be evidence based but is not a systematic review. Will be delivered by July.

6. Other Business

- **General Discussion re: Stoneware tiles**

NL – wanted to discuss the benefits of slip resistance tiling (for the Falls Conference?).

CB – stone wear tiles are the best for many aged and disabled peoples as they are semi glazed and quite smooth and easy to clean and maintain. They are smaller tiles with larger grout.

NL – Are they expensive?

CB – Stone wear tiles are available in sheets.

SD – And easy to grade

CB – stone wear are the best option for domestic floors apart from vinyl.

RB – Most people don't want vinyl in their house as it has a hospital feel and likeness.

NL – These tiles are expensive and we need to develop a technique to make it more cost-effective – big noise between units.

CB – this should be turned into a funded article.

NL – stone wear tiles – careful in regards to the performance specification. A lot of performance based does not pass Australian Standards.

CB – Will try and get some research underway – possibly with an ARC grant.

Housing research goes to AHURI.

NL – Spoke with Mark ? and people in Melbourne did research in regards to this area. A Commonwealth green lit premises modified the standard and as a result forced a review of all Aus. Standards – whatever falls under clause 428.1.

CB – Australian Standard 428.1 is clear and only applies to common areas.

SD – Reference as a baseline.

NL – Should not be used in homes but a lot of people do it.

SD – use it as a baseline. Good 18 months off – no access panels and cannot design on preferred solutions. Is there a difference between 428.1 and 99?

NL – Beside a door – 850 on every door.

CB – Will need to make this information available to the group and larger committee via the HMinfo website.

SD – There was a recent study in regards to rails – how close a rail needs to be to a wall.

CB – 50mm

SS – mentions the entrapment case.

CB – For the design to be approved an arm is not able to fall through the gap between the rail and the wall. Entrapment case is about a man whose arm went through a handrail and he suffered significant damage to his ligaments as a consequence.

- CB notified Committee Members of **HMinfo move from Level 1 to Level 3** and that the group would now be next to Susan Thompson's Group who just won the Healthy Planning Grant.
- **Design Core Curriculum has finally been approved** by Nancy Marshall, Assistant Dean of Teaching. Not sure if all students will be entitled to take the course or whether it will just be available to design students and not sure when this course will be implemented into the curriculum.

Meeting closed at 3.45pm.

Next Advisory Committee Meeting

The venue for the next meeting is will be held on Thursday the 3rd June 2010 at the Faculty of The Built Environment, University of NSW.

