



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

22nd February 2007

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)

Ian Maxwell (Wesley HMMS)

Jane Bringolf (Independent Living Centre of NSW)

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)

Mark Flynn (DADHC)

Steve Malvern (NSW State Wide Home Modification Service)

Stacey Sheppard-Smith (NSW State Council)

Anthony Ciesolka (Department of Housing)

Esther-Tina McGrath (LGA's)

Lisa Langley (COTA)

Melinda Paterson (Council of Social Service)

Chair

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

Note taker

Tanja von Behrens

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

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

Minutes from the last meeting

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

3. Clearinghouse update**Webstats:**

Katy provided a summary of the web statistics for the period from Nov 23, 2006 till February 22 2007. The statistics for access in January 2007 have jumped dramatically – this may be as a result of the increase in newsletters and news that have been sent out through the newsletter function on site, and the increased encouragement of services to sign up to the site. The number of visitors in February sat at 694, more than double the visitor numbers in January. The number of downloaded files from the website across January and February has been fairly constant, and the huge increase in hits has been a positive outcome. The cities report indicated that most of the traffic comes from within Australia, however there is also a high level of overseas use – predominantly from the US and Canada. 63.63% of the visitors come from NSW alone.

The number of hits to the State Council page on the website are currently not being counted. Members of the council stated that they would like to see a comparison of all the information from the Australian states, in order to chart where use of the site is coming from within Australia. 87.95% of visitors to the site come from Australia, while 3.21% come from the USA.

The old reporting system didn't read the old website for weeks, which resulted in skewed figures. The number of page views to date is 82,373, whilst total visitor's numbers to date are 13,581. In the period Nov 23 06 to Feb 06 there were 29 other countries, accounting for 12.05% of the traffic, with the US (45 visitors, 3.21%), Canada (20 visitors, 1.43%), Hong Kong (20 visitors, 1.43%) and Great Britain (20 visitors, 1.43%) accounting for the most traffic. Nevertheless 87.95% of visitors over this period were Australian, with NSW making up 63.64% of the total.

Systematic Review Updates

A number of new systematic reviews are currently in progress. These include;

1. Evidence for Home Modification Effectiveness – in progress
2. Barriers to Home Modification – in progress

Katy has received some information through from a study conducted into Housing in NZ. This data illustrates that there are some limitations on education and information in the sector, with 53% of people with disabilities not having received all the modifications that they had requested. Cost was the largest barrier to modifications, with lack of affordability a major issue.

Actions

Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting

See attached report

Maps/ Chart of information from the Australian States to be provided.

State council information needs counting – are we able to provide some sort of counter on site?

Katy to keep committee updated re: developments.

Notes

In NSW, Occupational Therapists are asked to ensure that they are not creating unrealistic expectations for clients, in terms of how likely it is that mods will be installed in a short time frame, etc.

Suburbs in lower-socioeconomic areas have declining numbers of home modifications being installed.

Govt. currently lobbying to have increased funding provided in drought affected areas.

3. Home Environmental Determinants and Interventions pertaining to aggressive and self-injurious behaviour of people with cognitive impairment – search completed. Lisa currently collating the information relevant to the paper.

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”. Both publications still have some work to be done on them, and will then be published. Indigenous Bulletin has received feedback, and this will be incorporated into the final document. Modification or Relocation bulletin will include a report and a checklist for clients.

Suggested hot topic – Asbestos – however, as there has already been much work done in this area, and the work that has been done is fairly comprehensive, the Clearinghouse would be loathe to create a new document on Asbestos. Are there any comprehensive and publicly available documents that provide a good summary of the information, and could be available to post to the web as public documents?

Events & Training

SSAHS Home Modification Network Meeting

The SSAHS meeting went well. The desire was for more input from the Home Modification Services into key areas of home modifications. There is now a regular contingent of Home Modification service members at the meetings.

Interest in the idea of mentoring and buddying has come up. **(Question as to whether this mentoring/buddying notion refers to people from services buddying up with new trainees?)**

HM services need to be skilled up when it comes to knowledge of the design and accessibility standards, but builder's etc do the groundwork, so they need to know about the Standards and BCA and how they work.

Members of the home building industry are not familiar with the Building Code and the Australian Standards. Standards cannot be copied by

Actions

Katy to keep committee updated re: developments.

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Kurri Kurri homework may have already done some work in this area and may have more information on this topic.

Katy will report back when more information is available

Katy to keep the committee updated

Notes

anyone – they are distinctly copyrighted documents. This is a difficult issue, because the documents are expensive to buy. The access standards should be freely, publicly available, and there may be some need to lobby around this issue in order to make sure that access is possible.

Asbestos Training

NSW State Council will be running a training that covers all home modification services for Asbestos. Training is to be rolled out across the state regarding 'Safe Systems of Work' when drilling into asbestos. Training is to be rolled out across the state. The safest method of drilling into asbestos is known as 'shadow vaccuming'. All Home Modification and Maintenance Services will be qualified in shadow vaccuming.

Other Clearinghouse Projects***Review of Queensland Department of Housings Home Modification Products***

Katy reported that this research is currently in progress. 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

In progress – Katy is due to meet with DADHC at the end of this month/meet with the AHURI

My Virtual Home project

Lara has organized a meeting with all those interested in the My Virtual Home program (MVH) and scheduled this meeting for April for all of the product people. A computer room is set up where this meeting can take place.

DADHC Group Homes Design Guidelines Revision

This project has been put forward to the ethics committee. An initial search has been undertaken looking at the built environment and group homes. Katrina has narrowed down the list of appropriate search terms and printed off a list of possible abstracts relevant to the research. These are now to be gone over. 309 articles have been retrieved from the search, to be followed up by Michelle. Initial search terms were too broad and needed to be narrowed down.

The guidelines will be re-written as a result of this research.

Other business***Guidelines and best practice for Home Modifications and Maintenance Services***

The guidelines for best practice for home modification and

Actions

Ongoing

Unknown – some form of action required.

Post new news on Asbestos issues and State council training on website. Stacey to send through information.

Actions**Notes**

maintenance services have been submitted, to be signed off on.

Accessible washroom for Aboriginal Housing redevelopment proposal

This is a project being developed by Col James of the Faculty of Architecture. This project now has the support of the Clearinghouse. The Alexandria Building Centre has consulted with the ILC, and is in discussion at the moment regarding changes to the plans, in order to improve their accessibility. There are hopes that Marie Bashir will sign off on this project. It is designed specifically to cater for Older Aboriginal Women, for the purposes of Childcare, laundry etc. The design should include such features as coloured stripping and hobless showers etc.

Strategic Plan

Necessity for a table attached to the strategic plan, including a time frame and delegation of issues. What role does the advisory committee want to play?

The Strategic Plan should go into the annual report.

Memorandums of Understanding are to be developed and finalised between the State Council and ILC/HMinfo very soon. This will include discussion of the ILC phone number, and whether or not it should be included on site.

Katy to put together a draft version of information about what the Clearinghouse does and doesn't do, and pass out to others.

Katy to circulate a 'service descriptions schedule' to others for feedback.

*Actions**Notes***Annual Report**

The Annual Report is part of the contract with the department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care. This report includes information about the Advisory Committee. This is the first annual report that the Clearinghouse has developed, and as such, the process of putting it together has been a bit of a difficult one. The information included in the annual report includes information on staffing, financials, research and publications, the website, events and training and a general overview of the Clearinghouse to date. As a first annual report, the document covers the period of June 2005 to July 2006. The report has been put together by Nicolette Jackson, who has previously worked with MSF and the ABC.

See copy of Annual report attached.

The Annual report will include audited financial statements and a record of the monies coming into and going out of the Clearinghouse.

Funds for Disability

There has been an overall reduction in the amount of funding available for disability services. \$400,000 'new' money. The money is actually just existing funds.

Common Top Ten Universal Housing Features

This leaflet was presented to the Clearinghouse for comment. The leaflet is originally designed to be tailored to individuals and to advertise newly built homes. The design of the leaflet, however, makes services appear to be relevant to people with disabilities specifically, rather than advertising buildings that should be suitable to people of all ages and levels of ability. 'Disability Housing' advertisement. The purpose of universal design is to create an inclusive environment for all people.

See attached leaflet.

Building the Future Committee

Discussions with Peter Phibbs/Mayor of Penrith re: proposal to set up a centre for universal design, with the aim to bring together as many people as possible in order to display best practice work in the universal design field.

Catherine Bridge to pass on information from Peter Phibbs re: housing and housing development.

Consumer Fact Sheet

The Consumer Fact Sheet on Arranging Home Modifications was passed around to the group for comment. Please see attached fact sheet and provide feedback. A list of possible allied health agencies etc has been put together to contact with more information, to possibly pass this home modifications leaflet on to. Tanja to meet with Michelle to develop a plan of how to expand on this list/reach as many contact people as possible. Feedback on a list of possible contacts was obtained from members of the committee.

See attached leaflet for more information.

Members of Advisory Committee leaving

Actions

Notes

Rebecca Rogers will be leaving for health reasons. May or may not bring another Department of Veterans Affairs person on to the team as a result.

Joseph Harrison's research officer position has been deleted from the Disability Council. A junior administrative role may open up here, but he is not sure as yet where he will be moving to. Katy opened up the possibility of Joseph doing some research with the Clearinghouse.

Next Advisory Committee Meeting

The venue for the next meeting is yet to be decided, however the meeting may be held on the 24th of May 2007 at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney.