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Authored by
The Home Modification Information Clearinghouse

for

The Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture
School of Built Environment
University of New South Wales

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introduction

SECTION 1

1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2022/23 Annual Report for the Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo). Established in 2002, HMinfo is an information service tasked with collating, reviewing, developing and disseminating evidence-based home modification knowledge, in order to enhance the independence and wellbeing of older people and younger people with disability; provide safe working environments for their carers and caseworker's; and promote evidence- based best practice among home modification practitioners and prescribers.

In this report you will find:

- An explanation of the work we do and the online information that we provide;
- Our goals and objectives;
- An introduction to our people;
- A statement from our Director;
- Website Statistics: these are compiled from Google Analytics and our website's inbuilt reporting capabilities.
- A look into what the next year holds for us and what we plan to achieve.

For further information, visit the HMinfo website: www.homemods.info. It is free to register as a user and you may choose to receive regular updates from us.

To get more information, discuss issues or ask for assistance from our team, please email us at: hminfo@fbe.unsw.edu.au .

For quick updates, join us on [Twitter@HM_Info](#), 'like' us on [Facebook](#) by entering "Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (UNSW)" into the search engine, connect with us on [LinkedIn](#), or follow us on [Pinterest](#).



1.1 Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo)

The Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo) was established in 2002. Its mission is:

To collate, review, develop and disseminate evidence-based home modification knowledge in order to enhance the independence and wellbeing of older people and younger people with disability, provide a safe working environment for their carers and careworkers, and promote evidence-based best practice among home modification practitioners and prescribers.

1.1.1 HMinfo Key Tasks

HMinfo's key tasks are:

- The collection and critical review of relevant national and international literature;
- The dissemination of findings in accessible and multiple formats, including knowledge translation, to the community, industry and other key stakeholders, to enable consumers and their carers to make informed choices and access evidence-based interventions.

1.1.2 HMinfo Home Modification Research Publications

HMinfo produces academically rigorous research-based documents on Home Modification policy and practice. Prior to publication, these documents are reviewed by Specialist Review Panels, comprising academic peer reviewers, expert practitioners in the fields of design, architecture, building, and occupational therapy, and consumer representatives for older people, people with disability, and carers.

The list of available online publications produced by our team includes the following:

Home Modification Evidence Based Practice Reviews

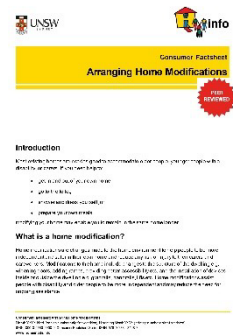
HMinfo [Evidence Based Practice Reviews](#) investigate the existing research evidence for the effectiveness of particular home modification design and building practices. Following a systematic review methodology, published literature on the design or building practice is examined. The literature search includes: databases of research studies in books and academic journals; legislation, Building Codes and Standards; Government, industry and consumer group websites; the HMinfo library collection of home modification publications and materials; grey literature documents, including industry guides and manufacturers' specifications; and anecdotal evidence from listservs, online forums, consumer peak bodies, and service providers.

Through evaluation of this published evidence, strategies most likely to achieve best practice home modification outcomes can be identified.

Home Modification Consumer Factsheets

HMinfo [Consumer Factsheets](#) translate research evidence for home modification design and building practices into concise information for consumers. This information is designed to assist older people, people with disability, and carers, when planning and undertaking home modifications.

Most Consumer Factsheets are derived from Home Modification Evidence Based Practice Reviews, Occasional Papers or Summary Bulletins. Other Consumer Factsheets are developed in direct response to the need for a concise guide to arranging home modifications or undertaking a particular type of modification.



Home Modification Industry Factsheets and Checklists

HMinfo [Industry Factsheets and Checklists](#) translate research evidence for home modification design and building practices into information that will assist home modification prescribers and practitioners.

Industry Factsheets and Checklists are derived from Home Modification Evidence Based Practice Reviews, Occasional Papers and Summary Bulletins, or developed when concise guidance on a particular type of home modification is needed by industry.



Home Modification Occasional Research Papers

HMinfo [Occasional Research Papers](#) are individually commissioned research papers on existing or emerging issues in home design and home modifications for older people, for people with disability, or for carers. These policy and practice issues are identified by Government, Industry and Consumer stakeholders.

Occasional Research Papers include a systematic review of literature on the issues and examine the policy impact and practice concerns. Many papers also report an original research study that is undertaken in response to the issue. Common types of study are design analyses, cost-benefit analyses, and consumer and industry surveys.

Home Modification Summary Bulletins

HMinfo [Summary Bulletins](#) provide a concise overview of the important issues relating to a particular home modification topic. These home modification topics are selected in response to an industry-identified concern or risk in home modification practices.

Summary Bulletins identify the applicable regulations, standards, industry and fair-trading specifications and guidelines, for the home modification topic. A range of home modification approaches are then reviewed, with a comparison of their advantages and disadvantages for

various housing and personal circumstances.

Summary Bulletins are intended to guide older people, people with disability, carers, and home modification prescribers and practitioners, in making home modification decisions. The information assists in determining the most appropriate home modification approach for each person, in the context of their home environment and care service mix.

1.1.3 HMinfo Home Modification Resources

HMinfo provides resources to support aged care and disability providers, and consumers. These include:

Home Modification Research Library

HMinfo edits and maintains an electronic [Research Library](#) database with over 3,500 online and hardcopy materials relevant to the home modification sector. The collection can be searched using our indexed lists, or by an open search using our tailored [search engine](#).

Home Modification Subject Bibliographies

As a by-product of our research, HMinfo produces [Subject Bibliographies](#) of the best references for particular topics of interest to industry and other researchers.

Annotated Web Links

HMinfo [Annotated Web Links](#) are an edited collection of international and national websites containing information relevant to home modification decisions.

Block Library

The HMinfo [Block Library](#) is a collection of Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) assets developed specifically to provide freely available Universal Design tools for both commercial and non-commercial stakeholders so that all can create spaces which take into account the size and movement restrictions of accessible mobility products. The Block Library is an essential step to facilitating the participation and social inclusion of the aged and people with disabilities in both private and public space design and redesign. These simple but significant downloadable drawings and models will provide all with the knowledge of space and other environmental requirements for the safe and effective access of a range of mobility products.

Case Study Library

The HMinfo [Case Study Library](#) showcases actual home modification cases submitted by website users so they can be reused for problem sensing and problem solving. The aim of sharing home modification problems and solutions is to better assist in more effective practical outcomes.

Forums

HMinfo hosts three [Forums](#): the Home Modifications Discussion Group, Home Modifications Professionals Forum, and Occupational Therapists Forum. The forums provide an opportunity for subscribers to exchange ideas and information relating to home modification for older people and people with disability and are a useful and dynamic method for keeping up-to-date with developments in the field.

Events Calendar

HMinfo maintains an [Events Calendar](#) with Training and Events related to Home Modifications.

Newsletters

HMinfo produces a quarterly [Newsletter](#) containing information relating to home modification and maintenance issues and disability. Each publication contains an article, book review, and a website review, as well as upcoming publications, training and events.

Apps

Liveability App

The Liveability app for Android was rebuilt to comply with changes to Google Play policies. The original version was developed in 2012 and thus used processes that Google has since deprecated. The app can run on the latest Android-based phones and tablets, as well as older devices running Android 4.4 KitKat operating system and above.

DIY Modify App

The DIYmodify App was upgraded to comply with changes to Google Play policies. In addition, the upgrade served to increase its compatibility with newer Android-based devices. In order to remain compliant with changes to Google Play policies, a yearly review of Google Play policies was established.

1.1.4 HMinfo Research Outputs

The key Home Modification issues that were addressed in HMinfo research Projects for 2022/2023 were the home automations for older people and people with disability and the quality and usability of selected evaluation and outcome measures in home-based occupational therapy for children and young people with physical disabilities.

Moreover, four videos were produced in five languages, while three of the most popular HMinfo Consumer Factsheets were translated in Arabic, Chinese, Italian and Greek.

In addition, the HMinfo website was improved with several upgrades to the appearance, interface, and usability. An overview of these projects is provided below.

Consumer Bulletin: Home Automations for Older People and People with Disability

“Home automations” or “smart controls” for the home can be very useful for older people and people with disabilities with mobility limitations and who might be sensitive to environmental parameters, such as high/low indoor temperatures, lighting, etc. This factsheet aims to present the main categories of home automations that can be particularly useful for older people and people with

disabilities and describe some considerations for their installation, in new or existing homes. The Consumer Bulletin: Home Automations for Older People and People with Disability was updated in June 2022.

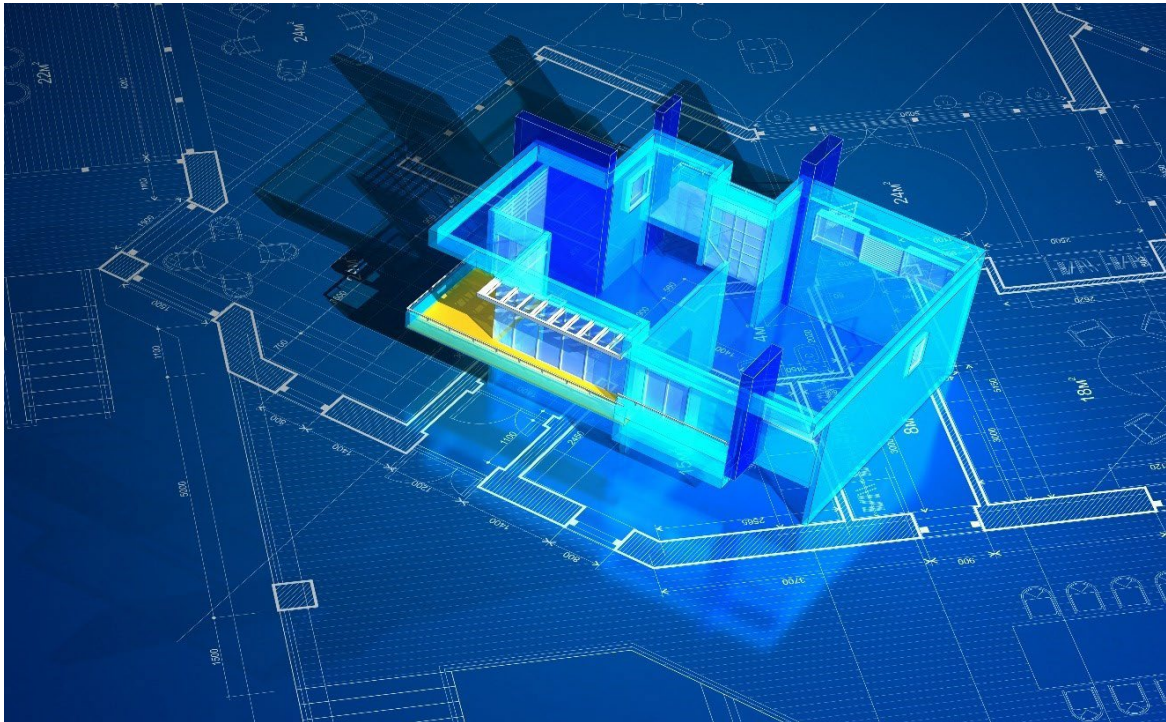


Figure 1. Evidence-based design and Home modifications. Source: <https://www.istockphoto.com/au>

Evidence based Practice Review: The quality and usability of selected evaluation and outcome measures in home-based occupational therapy for children and young people with physical disabilities: extended findings from a systematic review.

Background: This investigation critically appraises selected measures from a previous systematic review and links these with occupational therapy in the home.

Objectives: To identify, describe and determine the quality of selected evaluation and outcome measures applicable to occupational therapy in the home for children and young people with predominantly physical disabilities, and to provide qualified guidance for occupational therapists in selecting high-quality measures for best practice.

Search Methods: Searches for each named measure were conducted in PubMed, COSMIN Database of Systematic Reviews of Outcome Measurement Instruments, Google Scholar, measure-specific webpages, and other on-line sources.

Data Collection and Analysis: Data collection for selected measures used a modified Law and MacDermid's 'Appraisal for Clinical Measurement Research Reports Evaluation' approach. This method includes critically appraisal of both psychometric and clinimetric properties, particularly usability and responsiveness to change, to determine the quality of the evidence. The 'Quality Appraisal for Clinical Measurement Research Reports Evaluation' was used to grade the design of single studies including excellent, adequate and unsuitable and 'A Measurement Tool to Assess Systematic Reviews' for systematic reviews.

Results: Twenty-two eligible primary evaluation and outcome measures were selected and appraised for quality in the areas of - Activities for self-care and functional mobility; Participation - household tasks, and physical environment; Occupational Performance; Neuromuscular and Movement-related Functions, and Disability and Development.

Measures with an excellent rating of quality and usability were the Child and Adolescent Scale of Participation; Canadian Occupational Performance Measure; Goal Attainment Scaling; Paediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory-Computer Adaptive Test; Participation and Environment Measure for Children and Youth.

Measures with an adequate rating were the Assisting Hand Assessment - Kids; Assisting Hand Assessment - Mini; Activities Scale for Kids ©; Children's Assessment of Participation and Enjoyment; Child and Adolescent Factors Inventory; Child and Adolescent Scale of Environment; ; Children Helping Out: Responsibilities, Expectations, and Supports; European Child Environment Questionnaire; School, Home and Neighbourhood Accessibility: Physically Disabled Children's Assessments; Young Children's Participation and Environment Measure.

Measures with an unsuitable rating were the Box and Blocks Test, Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency; Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development; Infant Motor Profile; Peabody Developmental Motor Scales; Quality of Upper Extremity Skills Test.

Author's Conclusions: The most useful measures are those that combine the evaluation of the client's occupational performance within the home environment and focus on the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework. The usability of measures needs to be considered in addition to validity, particularly responsiveness and reliability.

Video: About the Home Modification Information Clearinghouse

This video introduces the Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo) and describes its activities and how they relate to supporting people with disability, older people and their carers. The Video "About the Home Modification Information Clearinghouse" was produced in January 2023.

Video: Arranging Home Modifications

This video outlines what home modifications are, why they are beneficial and how you can arrange them for yourself or someone in your care. It also touches on frequently raised concerns, such as obtaining funding via available subsidies. The Video "Arranging Home Modifications" was produced in January 2023.

Video: Assistive Technology - Home Automations

Many of us find it challenging to complete activities necessary for our well-being and comfort in the home, such as turning the air-conditioner and lights on/off without assistance.

This short video summarises how home automations or "smart" home controls can help us control our home environment easily. The Video "Assistive Technology - Home Automations" was produced in January 2023.

Video: Fire Safety - Escape

This video advises on how to protect yourself and your family from home fires and links to resources that can assist you with preparing a home Escape Plan. The Video “Fire Safety - Escape” was produced in January 2023.

1.1.5 HMinfo Website Upgrades

The HMinfo website maintenance and development works during 2022-2023, included:

- Due to UNSW's decision to migrate all servers away from the NSW Government's datacentre and onto Amazon Web Services by September 2023, HMinfo was centred on establishing and negotiating a migration plan for the HMinfo website and apps.

We have settled on a migration plan which ensures that we are performing the migration directly and that the infrastructure remains in our jurisdiction. It was imperative to achieve such a settlement since we had concerns about our user's privacy - the default option would have Amazon staff and contractors handle user information including our OT membership database.

The Amazon cloud engineers provisioned a new, blank server according to our specifications and we took over the process from that point onwards.

- The UNSW cyber security team proceeded to proactively gain an understanding of all IT systems at UNSW and categorise them by risk level.

We co-operated with them and demonstrated that our website and apps have exceeded UNSW's security requirements for many years.

- We developed the HMinfo website Chatbot after consultation with the HMinfo Advisory Committee members. The Chatbot was deployed in November 2022.
- All 5 HMinfo videos were uploaded on HMinfo website and the HMinfo YouTube channel. Currently, the website team is adding fields in video and publication pages for various language options.

our people

SECTION 2



2 OUR PEOPLE

The HMinfo team is led by the founder, Emeritus Professor Catherine Bridge and the Director, Dr Konstantina Vasilakopoulou. Our HMinfo team members combine experience from a range of design and health disciplines.

2.1 HMinfo team



Emeritus Professor Catherine Bridge has an international reputation in research concerning housing, disability, ageing and care. Catherine is the founder of the Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo). As the Founder and Director of the Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, running continuously since 2002, her research has helped improve the quality of life of many thousands of people with disability in 190 countries around the world. Catherine works for improved processes and outcomes for society bringing an evidence-based perspective. Her research passion concerns enabling design. She investigates how our assumptions and knowledge about built environments impact disabled people. Whether they enable movement and independence or disable people further. Catherine has led innovative research projects that have provided the evidence needed to directly influence national policy and standards, including the National Construction Code. Recently she has been instrumental in assisting in the establishment of a cross-faculty Disability Institute and in co-chairing the Assistive Technology and Environment group a part of the Clinical Academic Group on Ageing a collaboration of the Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE).

BAppSc (OT) Cumb, MCogSc UNSW, Phd (Architecture) USyd



Dr Konstantina Vasilakopoulou is an Architect with a Master's in Light and Lighting and a Doctorate in Environmental Engineering. Konstantina is the researcher of the Clearinghouse since late 2017 and the acting Director since January 2021. Konstantina's research interests focus on inclusive design, home modifications, the effects of the built environment on people, especially older people and people with disabilities, architectural science, lighting, sustainable and energy efficient building design, energy poverty and the environment.



Helmut Hoss has been assisting HMinfo with website development and maintenance, since 2011. Helmut is a website and software developer with system administration, computer hardware, security and networking skills. An autodidact in electronics and programming since childhood, Helmut began developing corporate IT systems during high school and training computer science interns from the University of Technology, Sydney while completing his HSC. He currently develops antivirus utilities, computer vision applications and automated financial instrument trading robots.



Victoria Wachter joined the HMinfo team in April 2022 as a Research Program Administrator to provide administrative and research support. She has a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Sydney, and has spent over a decade working in both private and public sector organisations. She has experience in the areas of financial reporting, management and analysis, project delivery, administration, and in the development and implementation of new government policy.

2.1 HMinfo Advisory Committee

The HMinfo Advisory Committee represents a wide cross-section of stakeholders, including industry, aged and disability peaks, and government. Our Advisory Committee meetings are held at the Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture, School of the Built Environment at the University of NSW, Sydney.

2.1.1 Advisory Committee Members – Industry



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AUSTRALIA

Robyn Chapman is the CEO, Assistive Technology Australia and President-Elect Coalition for Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology, Asia. Assistive Technology Australia (AT Aust) is a leading information and advisory service on assistive technologies and the built environment. AT Aust operates an access consultancy and is a Registered Training Organisation. AT Aust is the only training provider delivering the two nationally recognised competencies in complex Home Modifications.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AUSTRALIA

Deborah Hammond is an occupational therapist with extensive experience in home modifications, disability access and safety in design. She has worked with home modification services and private builders on minor and major building modifications. She provides design advice on disability accommodation and design reviews on health facilities including hospitals, cancer centres, rehabilitation facilities and residential aged care. Deborah lectures on safety and design for Consult Australia, and guest lectures at Sydney University School of Architecture and Australian Institute of Architects. She has also delivered environmental modifications training to OTs in NSW.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AUSTRALIA

Susan Dinley, has had extensive clinical experience in many clinical areas since 1984. Within the occupational therapy profession, she has received recognition for her contribution on present and future issues pertinent to the profession. Susan is an honorary committee member on many government and private enterprise working parties, providing feedback on proposed policy initiatives and the impact on occupational therapy services.



iCARE

Lyndal Millikan currently holds the position of Senior Home Modifications Advisor at icare NSW (Lifetime Care and Workers Care) with the NSW State Government. Lyndal teaches the Home Modifications and Community Access subject at Southern Cross University and is a member of the Southern Cross University Occupational Therapy Course Advisory Committee. Lyndal has held a number of senior clinical and management positions across both the public and private sector, and also been a past researcher at the Home Modification Information Clearinghouse.



3BRIDGES COMMUNITY

Peter Minogue is the Home Modifications and Maintenance Manager at 3Bridges which is a Sydney-based organisation that carries Home Modifications and Maintenance across Sydney and NSW. Collaborating closely with industry professionals, Peter oversees the development, design and implementation of all services provided by 3Bridges Home Modifications and Maintenance with the overarching goal of keeping people living safely in their homes.

With 15 years' experience in community services and 10 years in the building industry. Peter is a licenced builder who holds both a Certificate IV in Building and Construction and Certificate IV in Disability Services, he is passionate about providing the best solutions for people and enjoys the collaborative nature and continual learning aspects of his role.



SCOPE HOME ACCESS

Annette Hanly is a practicing Occupational Therapist (OT) and Divisional Manager for OT services within the South Coast Home Modification and Maintenance Service, trading as Scope Home Access. She has worked extensively in the field of Home Modifications, both in the UK and Australia. Annette is committed to developing services that promote choice and safety for people within their preferred home environment and has a keen interest in the use of technology to streamline and customise all consultation and prescription practices.



NSW LAND & HOUSING CORPORATION

Nicholas Loder is Senior Project Officer, NSW Land and Housing Corporation, Family and Community Services. Since 2003 he has provided design policy advice for multi-unit medium density residential and major refurbishments projects for LAHC, especially on access standards, Liveable Housing/Universal Design features and the NDIS. Prior to this, Nicholas spent nearly twenty years in various small to medium sized architectural firms designing and

documenting medium density housing, commercial, heritage, correctional projects.



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIERS AUSTRALIA

David Sinclair Executive Officer sits on a number of Government and disability reference groups on behalf of ATSA. He has presented to a number of Senate and Government enquiries providing industry advocacy that has supported users of assistive technology (AT). For just over 12 years he has overseen the supply of AT and medical consumables for the disability sector as a provider and industry representative. Prior, he has held several senior management roles in other industries, principally in the delivery of customer service for over 25 years.



ODYSSEY BUILDERS KURI KURI COMMUNITY SERVICES

Frank Riggio is the Odyssey Builders Manager for Kuri Kuri Community Services. Has 25 years building experience and 10 years being experience in providing Home Modifications and has worked Statewide within the Disabilities/Aged Care sector, ranging from transitional modifications to major complex modifications. Frank has experience in internal and external modifications, extensions and has had involvement with SDA new builds collaborating with Occupational Therapists, participants and their families and tradesman



TECHNOLOGY ASSISTING DISABILITY WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Steve Pretzel is CEO of Technology for Ageing & Disability WA (TADWA). He entered the home modifications industry in 2017, bringing nearly forty years of high level commercial and leadership experience in marketing, technology and recreational policy and advocacy. Steve is now applying that experience and his passion for technology in his role at TADWA to further the recognition and opportunities for home modifications to contribute to positive ageing.

2.3.2 Advisory Committee Members – Aged & Disability Peaks



NATIONAL SENIORS AUSTRALIA

Irene Stein is the National Seniors Australia NSW Policy Advisory Group Chair and National Policy Congress member.



COUNCIL ON THE AGEING NSW

Karen Appleby is the Senior Policy Officer at Council on the Ageing NSW, where she has specialised in examining the policies and issues that impact older Australians for over 2 years. The role encompasses research, advocacy and consultation with older people, government and other stakeholders to ensure the needs and aspirations of older people are addressed. Karen has extensive community development experience in the areas of ageing, disability and youth, including social research and planning. She has a Master's degree in Gerontology (Policy) from Charles Sturt University.



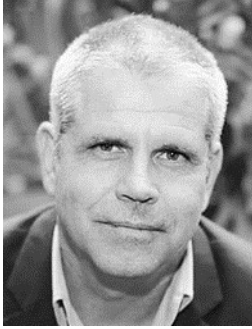
SPINAL CORD INJURIES AUSTRALIA

Greg Killeen has been working at Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA), since July 1991. Greg was an SCIA Information Officer providing information and referral to people with disability, their families, friends, carers, professionals and the general community, including people working in related disciplines who required information on home modifications and maintenance, access to buildings and the built environment, as well as assistive technology etc. Greg was recruited to work as the SCIA Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer and predominantly works on systemic advocacy.



PARAQUAD

David Clarke is the CEO of the Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Association of NSW (ParaQuad NSW), a community organisation that supports people with a spinal cord injury (SCI) across NSW. A major focus has been the provision of suitable accommodation for people with SCI and the deployment of the specialist Clinical Programs team enabling people to live better lives at home.



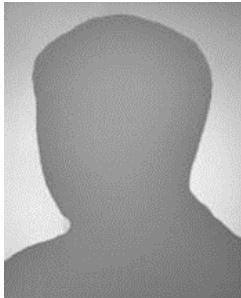
YOUNGCARE

Anthony Ryan is the CEO of Youngcare and is highly regarded in the Not for Profit and Business sector of Australia. Anthony has received recognition for his innovative approaches to uniting the business sector with worthy community causes. Anthony is leading change in the sector particularly in engaging with Developers and Investors in building Platinum accommodation for Young People with High Care Needs. Anthony believes strongly in advocating for the thousands of Young People across Australia with High Care Needs who are trying to navigate through the NDIS and live with dignity and choice.



PHYSICAL DISABILITY COUNCIL NSW

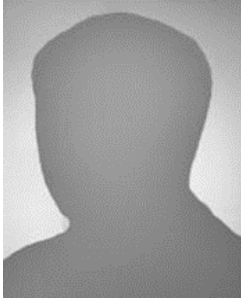
Hayley Stone is the Senior Policy Officer at the Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN) and has held this position since Feb 2020. Hayley has worked across a number of community roles, including working as a solicitor at Redfern Legal Centre and working as a policy officer at the Tenants' Union of NSW. Prior to commencing work at PDCN she was Chief Executive Officer of Eastern Area Tenants' Service, a tenant's advice and advocacy service in Eastern Sydney.



Department of Veterans' Affairs

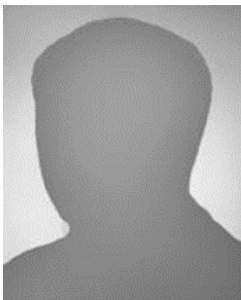
Jonathan Levy

2.3.3 Advisory Committee Members – Government



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Suzette Skobier is the Assistant Director for NSW and ACT in Social Services Executive Officer for Aged Care Programs in the Australian Government Department of Health.



Doug McDonald is a Subject Matter Expert, Home Modifications, working for the National Disability Insurance Agency

2.4 HMinfo Specialist Review Panels

The Specialist Review Panels provide HMinfo with the expertise for a comprehensive review process for their published documents. The review aims to fulfil the function of a traditional academic peer review of HMinfo documents by researchers in the same field. However, the review also contributes the valuable knowledge of experts in other fields, including design, building and healthcare, as well as the experiences of people with a wide range of disabilities.

The Specialist Review Panels are comprised of three regular panels of four to seven members: the Research Panel, Industry Panel, and Consumer Panel. These panels provide specialist advice and represent the viewpoint of a wide range of stakeholders. Accordingly, panel membership aims to include members with various backgrounds and experiences. At times, publications may require the co-opting of people with a specific specialty or expertise, as guest expert reviewers.

HMinfo would like to acknowledge and thank all the participants listed below for their involvement.

2.4.1 Research Panel Members

Dr Satoshi Kose	Professor Emeritus, Shizuoka University of Art and Culture
Karen Roberts	Caulfield General Medical Centre
Lindy Clemson	University of Sydney
Stephen Harfield	Centre for Contemporary Design Practice UTS Sydney
Jordana Maisel	Centre for Inclusive Design & Environmental Access, Buffalo University
Kay Saville-Smith	Centre for Research, Evaluation and Assessment

2.4.2 Industry Panel Members

Beverley Garlick	Royal Australian Institute of Architects NSW
Nicholas Loder	NSW Land & Housing Corporation (guest expert)
Mark Relf	Association of Consultants in Access (guest expert)
Vanessa Richards	Upper Hunter HMMS
Francis Lenny	Association of Consultants in Access Australia
Con Livanos	Association of Consultants in Access Australia
John Templeman	MOD.A
Lyndal Millikan	iCare

2.4.3 Consumer Panel Members

Dr Janice Herbert	National Seniors
Glenn Redmayne	Marrickville Council
Greg Killeen	Spinal Cord Injuries Australia
Keith Shinn	Deafness Forum of Australia

2.2 Non-HMinfo Projects

The Special Research Projects complement and inform the work undertaken by HMinfo. The broad scope of our special research projects ensures that HMinfo's home modification research is suitably placed within the scope of current research and practice in the built environment for carers, older people and people with disability.

With the global advent of population ageing and the ongoing transition of young people with disability to living in the community, understanding the complex transactions between the built environment and humans, has become an increasingly critical factor in creating and maintaining sustainable informal and self-care systems for all nations.

The HMinfo team benefits from its research partners and its contract and postgraduate research people having a diverse skill set that includes Architecture, Engineering, Occupational Therapy, Health Sciences, Biomechanics and Construction Safety.

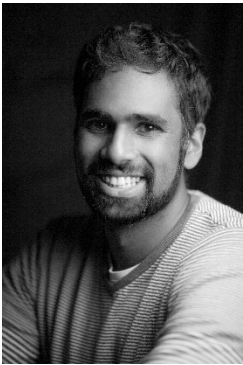
During 2022-2023 one Special Research Project was undertaken alongside the Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo), the Flexible Washbasins Project.

The UNSW team working on the Flexible Washbasins Project, apart from Em. Prof. C. Bridge

and Dr K. Vasilakopoulou, were:



Kim Andersen started as a research officer at HMinfo in 2018, managing the Liveability Lab and conducting user-based research. Kim is an engineer, experienced in biomechanics and human movement analysis techniques. She has a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical and Sports) and is undergoing a PhD in Mechanical Engineering, both through the University of Adelaide. Her PhD thesis concerns the mechanical testing of combat boots and their applicability to real-world use. Kim's research interests are in inclusive and universal design, and in disability care.



Rahm Ranjan is a physiotherapist with over a decade of clinical experience and a passion for technology enabling healthcare. He is a PhD candidate at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and a Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) affiliate researching the use of AI and Computer Vision for motion capture and movement analysis. He hopes to validate new technology to make healthcare more accessible to every individual.



Jai Raina is a research officer specialising in biomechanics and motion capture technology, crucial for conducting CAROMA's Washbasin study. He holds a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering (Honours) and a master's in biomedical engineering, both of which were completed at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and provided the strong academic foundation for this work. Passionate about advancing healthcare outcomes through technology, Jai actively seeks opportunities to integrate cutting-edge research into practical solutions, driving impactful change in the field.

Flexible Washbasins Project

In early 2018 a project was commenced in partnership with Caroma (GWA International – Bathrooms and Kitchen) to investigate the under-basin clearances and associated space requirements of washbasins in public accessible bathrooms. The focus of the research was wheelchair users, including those who may not always need to use a wheelchair. The COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions that were imposed delayed the project which was concluded in June 2023.

The main findings of the study are summarized below:

- 75% of participants of this study found that the height of washbasins in public accessible bathrooms prevents them from using them efficiently.
- 50% of participants' knees would touch the washbasin or the pipework underneath it with the current Standards height.
- 35% of participants were unable to independently and adequately wash their hands due to restrictions caused by either the wash basin height, the position of the tap, or the type of taps utilised.
- The basin heights recommended by the Australian Standards are not preferred by most wheelchair users and they even exclude approximately half of this population from using them.
- 30% of participants were unable to reach the dual taps, and 45% had greater difficulty reaching the two handle taps compared to the single lever tap.
- Tap position was preferred to be as close to the front of the basin as possible, however difficulty ratings and participant comments indicated that acceptable tap positioning is tied to optimal washbasin height and projection from the wall.
- Participants also utilised a side approach when approaching the washbasin. Currently AS1428.1:2021 only considers access from the front and is therefore another point of concern when re-evaluating AS1428.1:2021.

It is suggested for the AS1428.1:2021 to be updated with a higher basin height, a recommendation for washbasin projection from the wall and a tap position which is closer to the individual using the washbasin.

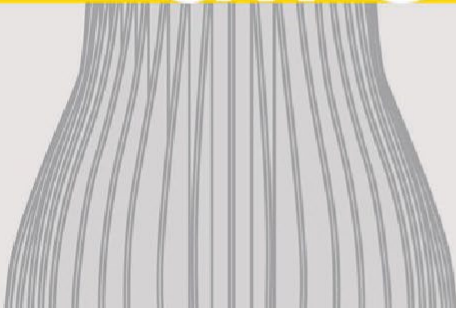
The Flexible Washbasins project was featured at the [Inside UNSW newsletter](#) and attracted significant media attention. The project was also showcased at the [ADAxHealth](#) program of research collaboration and knowledge sharing.



Figure 2. The HMinfo team presenting the Flexible Washbasins project at the ADAxHealth program.

director's report

SECTION 3



3 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2022 found the world trying to recover from the Covid pandemic. Aged care was a significant concern in Australia during the COVID period, as elderly populations are particularly vulnerable to severe illness or death from the virus. The Australian government implemented various measures to protect residents in aged care facilities and to manage outbreaks effectively. Despite these measures, outbreaks occurred in many aged care facilities, leading to significant illness and deaths among residents. This tragic news highlighted the fact that more home modifications allowing elderly individuals to remain in their own homes rather than being in communal living settings, would have saved lives.

By enabling older adults to age in place, home modifications can reduce their exposure to infectious diseases like COVID-19 that spread more easily in communal living settings such as aged care facilities. Additionally, being in familiar surroundings and maintaining independence can have positive effects on the mental and emotional well-being of older adults.

The Home Modification Information Clearinghouse team was very busy and productive during the financial year 2022-2023. We produced two new resources, updated numerous older publications to bring them up to date with recent Standards and regulations and translated five of our most popular publications in Chinese, Italian, Arabic and Greek. Moreover, we produced 5 videos which are also available in multiple languages for CALD audiences.

Apart from the Clearinghouse tasks, the team concluded the Flexible Washbasins project, funded by Caroma Industries, in June 2023. The project findings are significant for wheelchair users and highlight the need for updating the Australian Standards for public accessible bathrooms.

The HMinfo contract has been extended until June 30th, 2024. We are looking forward to working with our Advisory Committee members to provide many useful resources to the CHSP providers and to older people and their carers.



Dr Konstantina Vasilakopoulou. Director, Home Modification Information Clearinghouse

workplan

SECTION 4



4 HMINFO WORKPLAN 2022-2023

Historically HMinfo received 77% of funding from the Australian Government Department of Health through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) and 23% from the New South Wales Government Department of Family and Community Services (FACS), through the Community Care Support Program (CCSP). However, with the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) the division of FACS was subject to administrative restructures as a result of Administrative Arrangements and other government orders. Consequently, implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has had a material impact on the operations and organisational structure of FACS and disability services and the 23% of HMinfo funding ceased on June 30th 2018.

Currently, HMinfo is funded by the Australian Department of Health under the Commonwealth Home Support programme. The Activity Work Plan for the financial year 2022-2023 is shown on the following pages, with the reported measures of success for the year.

Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) Activity Work Plan - July 2022 to 30 June 2023

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAMME (100% HMinfo funding)

ACTIVITY DETAILS

Activity Objective:	<p>Activity Objective: To support Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) service providers through reforms to the CHSP, in preparation for a new in-home aged care system, and to operate effectively in line with the objectives of the CHSP and within the context of the broader aged care system.</p> <p>Activity Description: The Grantee agrees to carry out the Activity as described in this Activity Work Plan in accordance with Item E.2 of the grant agreement and the criteria in the 2022-2023 CHSP Manual as published on the Department of Health and Aged Care (department) website.</p>
Flexibility provisions	<p>Sector Support and Development (SSD) providers which deliver other CHSP service types have full flexibility to re-allocate funds from these service types and from other funded Aged Care Planning Regions (ACPR) into SSD where it does not impact on current clients or service delivery. However, SSD providers cannot re-allocate base funding from SSD to other service types or outside of an ACPR without prior written approval from the department.</p> <p>If a provider wishes to re-allocate funds from another service type into SSD, they must contact their Funding Arrangement Manager (FAM) and their Activity Work Plan will need to be reviewed by a Community Grants Hub Assistant Director.</p>
Aged care reforms:	<p>As the in-home aged care reforms progress, the 2022-23 CHSP Manual may be updated with additional SSD activities, or further details may be added to existing activities.</p> <p>To provide flexibility and meet changing demands, during the 2022-23 CHSP extension your organisation may have an opportunity to deliver new SSD activities as they are added to the CHSP Manual, or re-direct services to deliver other SSD activities should the provider identify a limited demand for their originally planned activities. More information on how this process will work will be provided by the department via a letter to SSD providers which will include next steps and guidance.</p> <p>Please note, it is not anticipated any additional funding will be available in 2022-23. Any additional services, or redirection of services, must fit within your organisation's current 2022-23 funding allocation.</p>
Activity Work Plan Period	<p>Activity Work Plan Start Date: 01/07/2022</p> <p>Activity Work Plan End Date: 30/06/2023</p>

ACTIVITY DELIVERABLES

Activity	Performance Indicators
<p>Mandatory activity</p> <p>Ongoing engagement in the SSD Community of Practice</p>	<p>Achieve 'Active Participant' badge within 6 months of finalising AWP.</p> <p>Partner with large home mods providers and RAS assessors to increase visibility of HMinfo and increase impact on providers and older people.</p>
<p>Review and update evidence published in HMinfo website to reflect the new in-home aged care system requirements and support CHSP providers prepare for a new in-home aged care system (i.e., ensuring credibility and recency of factsheets such as "Consumer factsheet: Arranging home modifications" and HMinfo website as it relates to CHSP).</p>	<p>Report on number of items updated or reviewed.</p> <p>Report on number of website visits and downloads.</p>
<p>Publishing new and/or updated research relevant to home modifications and enabling environments for older people, with a focus on linguistically and culturally diverse communities, so that CHSP providers are able to provide inclusive services to diverse clients.</p>	<p># new publications and new editions of existing HMinfo (based on Advisory Committees advice regarding gaps, weaknesses, and priority as part of strategic planning activities).</p>
<p>Developing and disseminating information on the CHSP and its interaction with the broader aged care system, aged care reforms and home modifications from reliable external sources, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) news postings, b) annotated weblinks and bibliographies, c) publications, d) responding to home modification related queries, and responding to feedback, from website users and registered users, via telephone and email. e) events/Training listings f) HMinfo quarterly newsletters. g) relevant Frequently asked questions (FAQs) published <p>Enable the provision/adding new material, news, events, newsletters to the HMinfo website.</p>	<p># and frequency of news and events publication relevant to the new in-home aged care system and to home modifications.</p> <p># of publication of new annotated weblinks, reviewed ad updated annotated weblinks and bibliographies twice per month.</p> <p># of relevant publications produced by others and shared with the sector.</p> <p># of queries and type of responses by team and publish as FAQs.</p> <p># of listings of training and education opportunities for service providers, workforce and consumers.</p> <p># of publication of newsletters.</p> <p># new or modified FAQs relevant to CHSP providers' wellness, reablement and restorative care approaches.</p>

ACTIVITY DELIVERABLES

Deliverable

Developing and promoting collaborative partnerships within the CHSP and across the broader aged care to:

- a) Remain informed about the CHSP providers' needs relevant to home modifications.
- b) Enhance knowledge for home modifications via the Home Modification Group Forums for occupational therapists and for building practitioners.
- c) Advisory Committee (AC) reflects a national focus and has representation from all key stakeholder groups.

Performance Indicators

industry, # consumer, # government bodies participating in AC. Geographic and sectoral distribution of the members.

Advisory Committee meetings.

Minutes for AC meetings uploaded to the HMinfo website

STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholder	Interest or Impact	Engagement Strategy
Home modification providers	Home modification providers require access to evidence-based home modification information in order to support clients to make informed decisions about home modifications to maintain or restore independence and self-care.	Continue working with the Design and Construction Industry, Home Modification Australia, Master Builders, Australian Institute of Architects and the Housing Industry Association.
Occupational Therapists	Occupational therapists require access to evidence-based home modification information to support clients to make informed decisions about home modifications to maintain or restore independence and self-care.	Continue working with OT Australia, the industry body for occupational therapists.
Other researchers in how home environments impact independence, self-care and ongoing care costs of older people.	Work collaboratively with other researchers in home modifications and how they can support older people to maintain/restore independence and self-care and reduce ongoing costs.	Maintain links with relevant researchers nationally and internationally. Present HMinfo and related research at relevant conferences and seminars.

activities

SECTION 5



5 HMINFO ACTIVITIES 2022-2023

5.1 Research & Publications

HMinfo Publications

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (2022). Consumer Bulletin: Home Automations for Older People and People with Disability. Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Sydney, Australia.

Fowler, (2022) B. Evidence based Practice Review: The quality and usability of selected evaluation and outcome measures in home-based occupational therapy for children and young people with physical disabilities: extended findings from a systematic review. Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Sydney, Australia.

Videos

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (2023). Fire safety – Escape. Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Sydney, Australia.

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (2023). Home Lighting. Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Sydney, Australia.

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (2023). About the Home Modification Information Clearinghouse. Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Sydney, Australia.

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (2022). Arranging Home Modifications. Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Sydney, Australia.

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (2022). Home automations for older people and people with disability. Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Sydney, Australia.

Translated HMinfo Publications

The following HMinfo publications were translated in Chinese, Arabic, Italian, Greek:

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (2019). Arranging Home Modifications, Ed. 2. Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Sydney, Australia.

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (2020). Home lighting. Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Sydney, Australia.

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (2021). Fire safety - Escape. Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Sydney, Australia.

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (2021). Home automations for older people and people with disability. Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Sydney, Australia.

Journal Articles

M. Santamouris, K. Vasilakopoulou, Recent progress on urban heat mitigation technologies, Science Talks, Volume 5, 2023, 100105, ISSN 2772-5693, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sctalk.2022.100105>.

Lagisz, M., Vasilakopoulou, K., Bridge, C., Santamouris, M., & Nakagawa, S. (2022). Rapid systematic reviews for synthesizing research on built environment. Environmental Development, 100730. Conference Papers and Presentations

5.2 Research Student Supervision

Prof. Catherine Bridge

Primary Supervisor

- 2017-present: Maximilienne Whitby, PhD candidate (UNSW) Built Environment
- 2018-2023: Sima Alizadeh, PhD candidate (UNSW) Built Environment

5.3 UNSW Committees & Roles

Dr Konstantina Vasilakopoulou

- Associate investigator of the UNSW Ageing Futures Institute
- Associate investigator of the UNSW Disability Innovation Institute

website

SECTION 6



6 WEBSITE STATISTICS

6.1 Website Overview 2022-2023

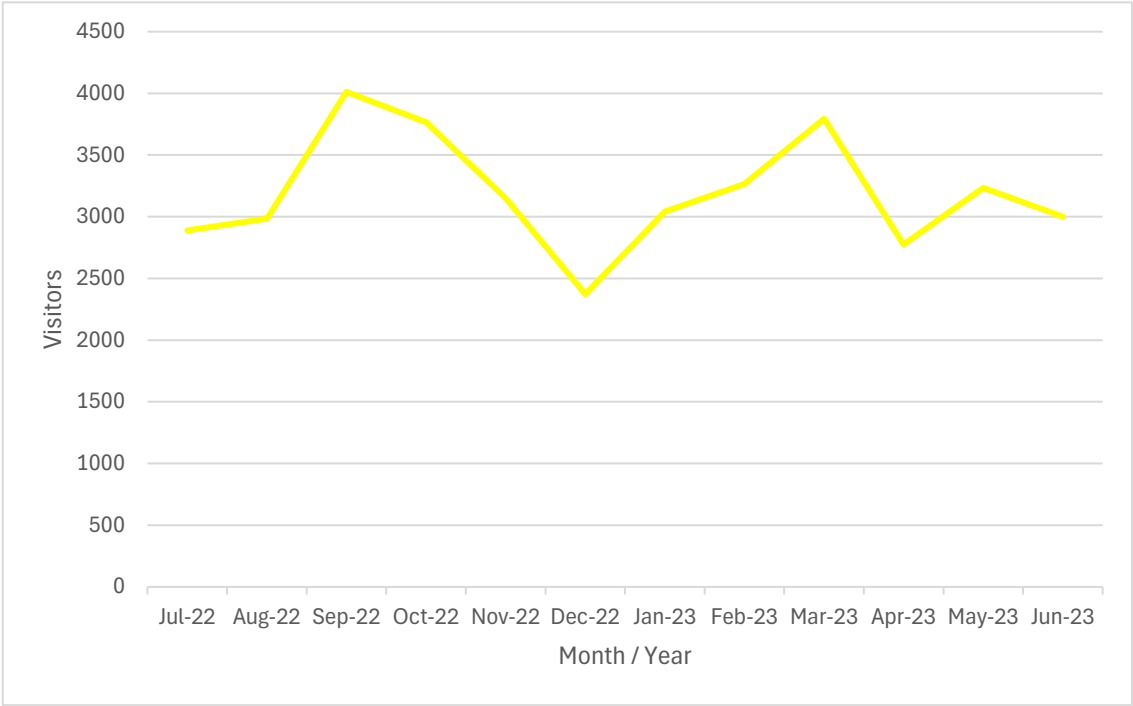
Total page views: 82,643

Total visitors: 42,059

Total new website registrations: 82

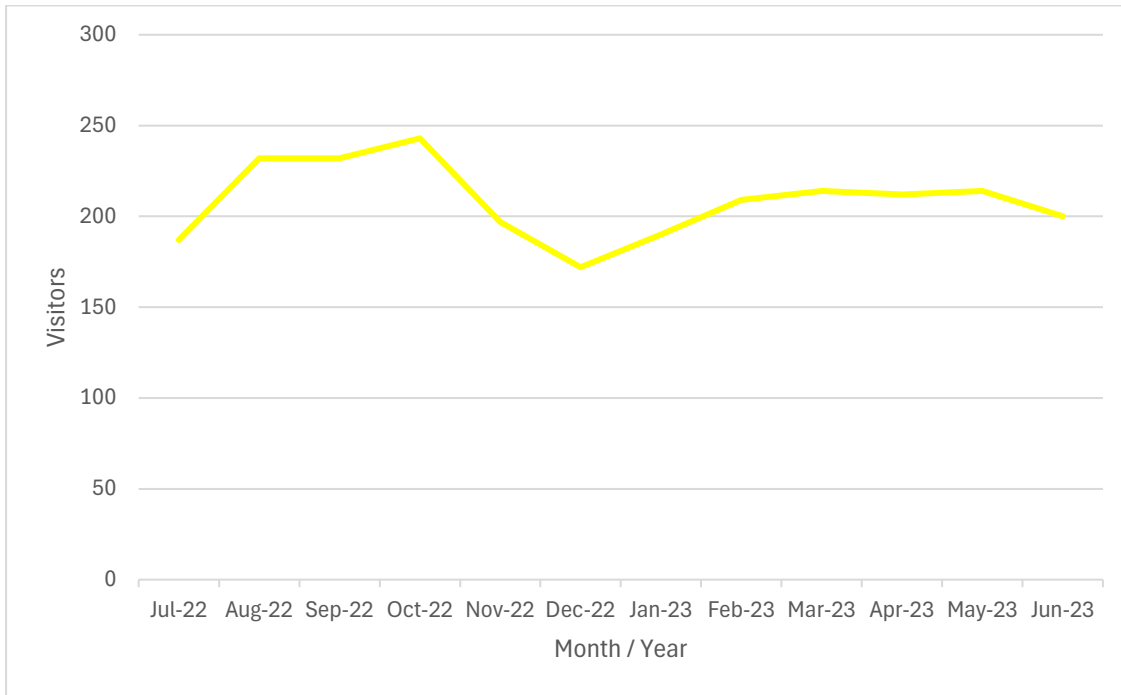
6.2 Website & Google Analytics Reports

6.2.1 Visitors by month – 2022-2023



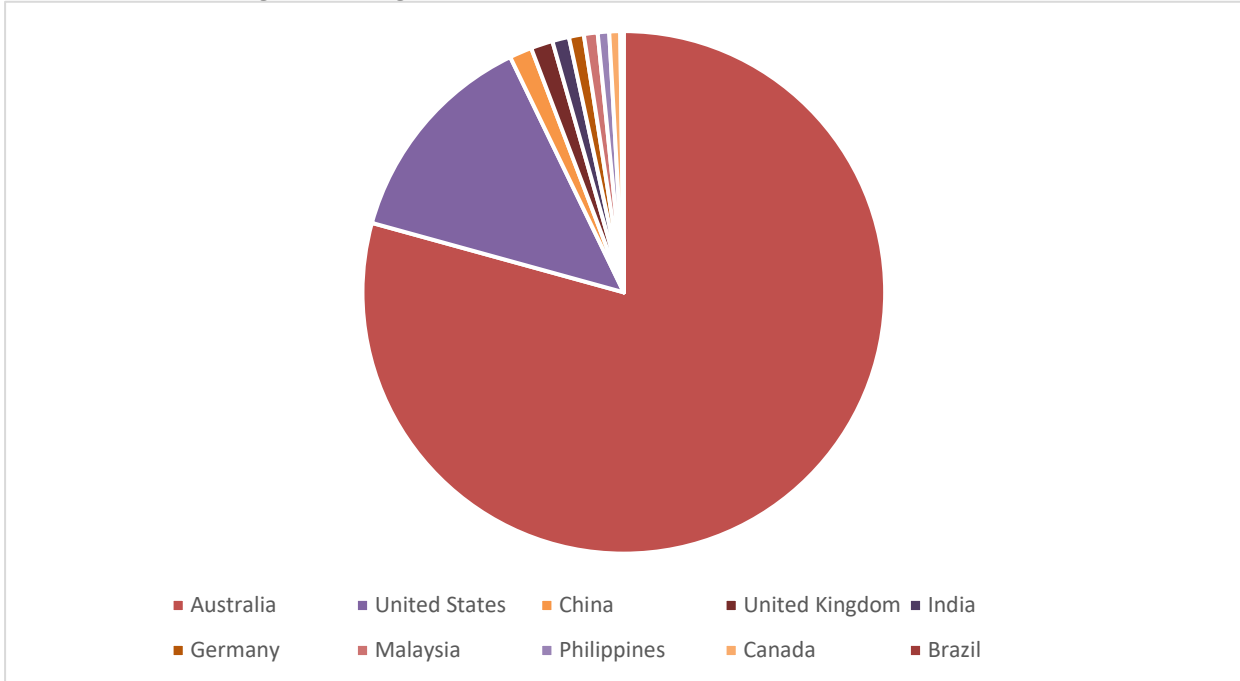
Month (year)	Visitors
July 2022	2,889
August 2022	2,984
September 2022	4,012
October 2022	3,767
November 2022	3,152
December 2022	2,373
January 2023	3,041
February 2023	3,264
March 2023	3,794
April 2023	2,774
May 2023	3,233
June 2023	3000
Total	38,283

6.2.2 Visitors returning by month – 2022-2023



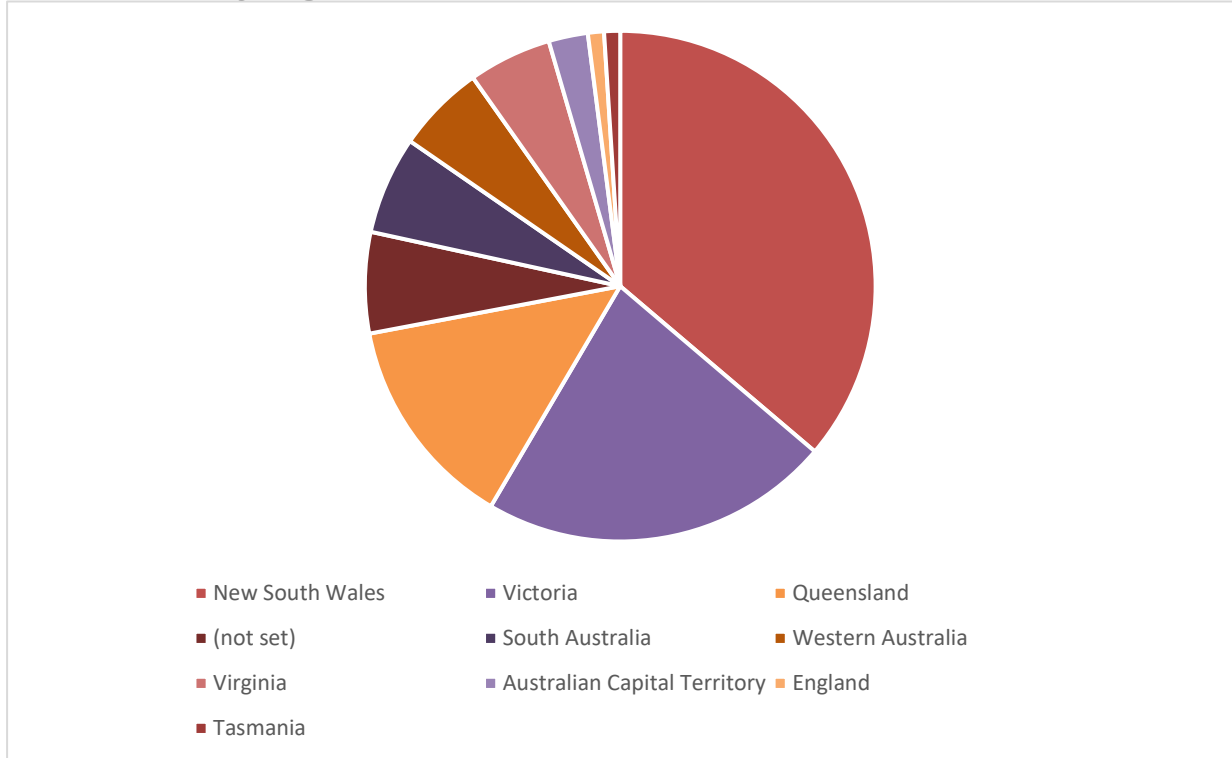
Month	Number of returning visitors
July 2021	187
August 2021	232
September 2021	232
October 2021	243
November 2021	197
December 2021	172
January 2022	190
February 2022	209
March 2022	15
April 2022	212
May 2022	214
June 2022	200
Total	2,303

6.2.3 Visitors by country – 2022-2023



Country	Visits	% of Total visitors
Australia	37,298	78.81
United States	6,379	13.48
China	654	1.38
United Kingdom	639	1.35
India	488	1.03
Germany	433	0.91
Malaysia	400	0.84
Philippines	333	0.70
Canada	318	0.67
Brazil	102	0.21

6.2.4 Visitors by region – 2022-2023



Region	Visits	% of Total visitors
New South Wales	15,338	32.41
Victoria	9,423	19.91
Queensland	5,747	12.14
(not set)	2,709	5.72
South Australia	2,627	5.55
Western Australia	2,370	5.01
Virginia	2,232	4.72
Australian Capital Territory	1,053	2.22
England	431	0.91
Tasmania	429	0.91

6.2.5 Top 10 HMinfo Publication Reads – 2022-2023

Rank	Publication title	Reads
1	Consumer Factsheet: Arranging Home Modifications	2250
2	Regulatory Requirements for Controlling Water Temperature in Bathrooms	1793
3	The Effectiveness of Ceiling Hoists in Transferring People with Disabilities - A systematic review	1551
4	DIYmodify Factsheet: CHOICES for GRAB RAILS	1471
5	Understanding Aboriginal Australians for more Effective Provision of Home Modification Services	1438
6	Lifts	1361
7	Self-assessment tools for person-environment fit	1163
8	DIYmodify Factsheet: CHOICES for HANDRAILS	677
9	Home Fire Safety - Egress	662
10	Home Modifications and Their Impact on Waged Care Substitution	544

6.2.6 Top 10 HMinfo Publication Downloads – 2022-2023

Rank	Publication title	Reads
1	Ramps	10423
2	DIYmodify Factsheet: CHOICES for GRAB RAILS	9084
3	Self-assessment tools for person-environment fit	2993
4	The Effectiveness of Ceiling Hoists in Transferring People with Disabilities - A systematic review	2308
5	HMinfo Case Studies Evaluation	1655
6	DIYmodify Factsheet: Electrical zones in the bathroom	1510
7	Electrical Safety in Bathrooms 2 nd Edition	1278
8	Slip Resistance of Ramps 2nd ed.	958
9	Effectiveness of grabrail orientations during the sit-to-stand transfer	880
10	Regulatory Requirements for Controlling Water Temperature in Bathrooms	867

financials

SECTION 7

7 FINANCE REPORT

DSS-DoH Financial Acquittal for the 2022-2023 period



UNSW
S Y D N E Y

ABN 57 195 873 179

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE PERIOD
1 JUL 2022 TO 30 JUN 2023

TITLE: DoH CHSP HMinfo - Home Modification Maintenance Information Clearing House 15-20
SPONSOR REF: Department of Health and Aged Care
MANAGER: Catherine Bridge
PROJECT NO: RG152759

Life to Date \$			\$
	OPENING BALANCE		10,547.49
	OPERATING INCOME		
1,522,740.10	Funds received	208,868.93	
0.00	Interest	-	
<u>1,522,740.10</u>	* TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE		<u>208,868.93</u>
	OPERATING EXPENDITURE		
1,220,245.98	Salaries	120,351.45	
0.00	Scholarships	-	
5,809.49	Equipment	-	
281,856.69	Materials / Supplies	84,334.95	
97.92	Travel	-	
<u>1,508,010.08</u>	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE		<u>204,686.40</u>
<u>14,730.02</u>	CLOSING BALANCE		<u>14,730.02</u>

CONFIRMED TO UNSW LEDGER

Sumathi Poobalan 07-Sep-2023
Manager Research & Revenue Accounting
UNSW Sydney

* Where GST has been received in addition to the grant funds above,
the GST has been forwarded to the Australian Taxation Office.

looking ahead

SECTION 8



8 LOOKING AHEAD

We intend to continue providing a high quality, accessible and evidence-based support for making changes to the home for individuals, families and carers.

Specific research planned for the year ahead on advice from our Advisory Committee as priorities include:

8.1 Protection from heatwaves

One Consumer factsheet will be published in order to assist older people protect themselves during heat waves, especially during power outages.

8.2 Adapting existing resources to a more diverse audience

More key HMinfo resources will be translated to the main languages spoken in Australia, to make them more accessible to older populations that might not speak English fluently.

glossary

SECTION 9



9 GLOSSARY

CHSP	Commonwealth Home Support Programme
DOH	Australian Government Department of Health
DSS	Australian Government Department of Social Services
DVA	Department of Veteran's Affairs
EBEP	Enabling Built Environments Program
HMinfo	Home Modification Information Clearinghouse
NCC	National Construction Code
NDIA	National Disability Insurance Agency
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
OT	Occupational Therapist
OTA	Occupational Therapy Australia is the professional association representing Occupational Therapy throughout Australia
PDCN	Physical Disability Council of NSW
TADWA	Technology for Ageing & Disability WA