



The University of Sydney

Faculties of Health Sciences and Architecture

**Home Modification & Maintenance:
Information Clearing House Project**

Advisory Committee Minutes

www.homemods.info

Meeting of the HMM Information Clearinghouse Advisory Committee

24 November 2005

**At 3.05 p.m.
Meeting Room J003,
The Faculty of Health Sciences
University of Sydney**

Present

Peter Phibbs (Faculty of Architecture, University of Sydney)
Joe Harrison (Disability Council of NSW)
Robyn Chapman (Physical Disability Council of NSW)
Ian Maxwell (Orange HMMS)
Tony Ciesiolka (NSW Department of Housing)
Stacey Sheppard-Smith (Aged & Community Services Association of NSW & ACT)
Toni Adams (DADHC)
Jane Bringolf (Independent Living Centre of NSW)
Melinda Paterson (HACC Development Officer, Sutherland)
Steve Malvern (NSW Statewide Home Modification Service)
Catherine (Katy) Bridge (Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney)
Rebecca Rodgers (NSW Department of Veterans Affairs)
Phillipa Brennan (Health & Community Care Branch, NSW Department of Health)
Esther-Tina McGrath (Local Government and Shires Assoc of NSW)
Anne Reeve (South Coast Home Modification & Maintenance Service)
Peter Phibbs (Faculty of Architecture, University of Sydney)

Apologies

Chair

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Action

Welcome, introduction & apologies

Katy opened the meeting at 3.05 p.m. Apologies were noted.

Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as true and accurate record.

Clearinghouse Updates

Webstats:

A summary of the webstats for the period from 18th of August till 23rd of Nov were presented. The total number of page views to date is 50,727. In the period covered there were over 4000 page views, with 80.7% from NSW.

Extra effort was put into the statistics on this occasion at the request of Stacey. An attempt was made to give a break down of visitors for each service area. While a reasonable result was achieved, it was noted that this is a labor intensive process and that the (reverse IP) technology simply isn't able to give the exact geographic breakdowns that we would like at this stage. This may change in future.

Copies of the report are available on request for those that couldn't attend.

Domain Name:

Domain name options were discussed. **WWW.HOMEMODS.INFO** was chosen as new domain name. In addition, it was decided that homemods.com.au and homemods.net.au would also be registered to protect them from use by others and to make it easier for people to find the site.

Toni suggested that we ask John Lewis or Andrew Clark to mention the new address at the upcoming launch of HSNet.

RvB to register new names and point them to current web address.

TA to ask Andrew / John to mention new name.

Usability Survey

Katy tabled the usability survey progress report for committee members to read in their own time. Digital copies available on request for those who could not attend the meeting.

WFOT 2006 CONGRESS

Sydney will host The World Federation of Occupational Therapists congress from the 23rd to the 28th of July 2006.

It was suggested that this would be a good place to announce:

- 1) The launch of the new website

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- 2) The MyVirtualHome inclusion of disability devices
- 3) The New Home Modification Guidelines.

Systematic Review Updates

Katy reported on the following:

Timber Decking Research Grant

An ARC Linkage research grant has been applied for to examine the slip resistance of timber decking. As well as Sydney University, grant application partners include Insurance Australia Group (IAG), National Parks and Wildlife, Outdoor Structures Pty Ltd, CSIRO and UTS. The total funding sought is a little under one million dollars.

Honours students have completed the following two reviews which are currently under examination and have been accepted to speak (and received scholarships) to speak at ICADI.

- 1) **Ground level lighting** study by Michala Pitch (4th Year Honours Student) examined lighting conditions and their effects on people with vision impairment. Determined that contrast was more important than total light level. Therefore strip lighting is worth further investigation.
- 2) **A systematic review of grabrail orientations** by Hayley Seton (4th Year Honours Student)

Tile coating study

This honours project was completed by Kate Whitfield and has been awarded first class honours. It is now available on the website, along with its industry fact sheet and checklist. To go directly:

<http://plan.arch.usyd.edu.au/hmm/learn/filelib/getfile.cfm?filename=SR%5FTileCoatings05%2Epdf>

Grabrail diameter study

This review is currently undergoing a second search strategy due to new information being brought to our attention. David Feather, US Senior Anthropometrist provided access to this new information. We envisage this review to be available before the end of the year.

Hot Topics

Katy reported that five hot topics have now been completed this year.

The current hot topic is “the legal basis of standards in the home”.

Recent hot topics have included:

- Home Modification & Children’s Growth
- Home Fire Safety & Egress

Action

DADHC is preparing an internal funding application.

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Events & Training

MBA Road Show

Jane reported on the MBA road show, stating that it was well received.

Ian commented that it had served to raise awareness with builders with regard to the needs of the elderly... but that what is needed is a method of accrediting builders who have sought to educate themselves in these matters.

It was estimated that the road show reached well over 1000 builders in NSW. It was suggested that the 'MyVirtualHome' product be taken on the next road show.

Design and Construction for the Future

Jane explained that the ILC, MBA, and the Building Designers Association, put on a seminar, at which Katy also presented. The ILC, MBA and BDA are working together to provide training for building consultants and designers. The first five units taken from the Access Consulting Standards will form a Statement of Attainment in Accessible Construction. This is the first step in accrediting builders and designers to create accessible and adaptable homes.

Westmead Children's Hospital Workshop

Katy reported that there had been excellent feedback from this workshop and that they had requested another. A second workshop has now been scheduled.

AAG Home Ageing in My Place seminars

Katy interacted with Jon Pynoos while he was in Australia and has been invited to the US to collaborate with him.

KB to liase with Jon re visit to US late Jan, early Feb.

Stacey suggested that some sort of partnership might be sought with Jon's group.

It was further suggested that we seek reciprocal website links.

EPAA

The draft Environmental Assessment and Planning Act was discussed. Previously councils were able to put their own environmental plans together... now there is a state-wide template.

Stacey has been talking to Ruth Ley and Sandi Lightfoot who are working on methods to curb demand for HACC funded home modification services. They are working on a document that they will present at the next State Council meeting. Stacey will distribute the document when it is available.

SS-S to distribute document.

Notes**Action*****Clearinghouse Projects*****HAC-MDS**

Katy reported that NT and QLD would not release data. She thought that NT may be amenable, but that QLD was not.

It was explained that QLD data was not useful because they had only recently turned 'error reporting' on and thus their older data was too full of errors.

Website upgrade

Katy explained that we have decided to go for an open source content management system. (CMS)

Rolf explained what a content management system was and that there are over 500 to choose from, including over 80 open source products. The team are now evaluating several CMS's and hope to choose one by the end of the year.

Web streaming of Nov 16 event

The clearinghouse reported that they had received the files and are in the process of putting them on the website.

Other Business**Standards Australia online**

State Council is now distributing standards via their website.

National Speaker Series

Jane reported on the progress of the National Speaker Series initiated by Minister Julie Bishop. An advisory committee for the series includes, the Planning Institute, the MBA, Property Council, Building Designers Association, Local Government Association, Institute of Architects, and ILC Australia. The whole series is being facilitated by Keith Sutor. There was a very useful discussion session during the NSS event at the Australian Association of Gerontology where the senior architect with the QLD Department of Housing said that having a percentage of dwellings as adaptable was nonsensical - every new dwelling should be adaptable. Bernard Salt will be speaking at the Melbourne NSS event.

Next Advisory Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 23rd Feb 2006 at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Sydney.

2006 Meeting Dates:

23rd Feb

25th May

24th August

23rd November

Meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.