



Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting of the HMinfo Advisory Committee

9 September 2021

3-4pm

Zoom

Welcome, Introduction, Attendance & Apologies

Dr Konstantina Vasilakopoulou opened the meeting at 3.00pm.

Apologies were noted.

Attending

Catherine Bridge (CB)
Nicholas Loder (NL)
Deborah Hammond (DH)
Annette Hanly (AH)
Karen Appleby (KA)
Greg Killeen (GK)
Susan Dinley (SD)
Lyndal Millikan (LM)
David Clarke (DC)
Andrew Chia (AC)
David Sinclair (DS)
Hayley Stone (HS)
Frank Riggio (FR)
Leonie Rooney (LR)

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo)
NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC)
Occupational Therapy Australia (OTA)
SCOPE Home Access
Council on Ageing NSW (COTA)
Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA)
Occupational Therapy Australia (OTA)
iCare
Paraquad
Assistive Technology Australia (ATA)
Assistive Technologies Suppliers Australia (ATSA)
Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN)
A1 Building Solutions NSW
National Disability Insurance Agency

Apologies

Anthony Ryan (AR)
Matthew Hilder (MH)
Steve Pretzel (SP)
George Latter (GL)
Irene Stein (IS)
Cheryl Slade (CS)
Suzette Skobier (SS)
Douglas McDonald (DM)
Jonathan Levy (JL)
Julian Werrett (JW)
Katie Hammill (KH)

Young Care (YC)
Wesley Mission
Technology for Ageing and Disability WA (MOD.A)
Bunnings
National Seniors Australia (NSA)
Lifetime Support SA
Australian Government Department of Health (DOH)
National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)
Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA)
3 Bridges Community
3 Bridges Community

Chair

Konstantina Vasilakopoulou (KV)

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo)

Minute Taker

Kim Andersen (KAA)

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo)

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes from 10 June 2021 Meeting have been approved by KV and accepted by the committee.

Follow up actions from 10 June 2021 meeting:

(i)KV to send NL for review.

1. HMinfo Website

Action

1.1. HMinfo Website Report

Bidets and home lighting consumer factsheets have been the most popular since the last report.

1.2. HMinfo Website Progress

Google Ad Strategy

A strategy to improve website user acquisition by using Google Ads was developed, documented, and implemented for Consumer Factsheets. There was a drop in clicks from the previous month, however since January the numbers are going up. The strategy will now be extended to the rest of the publications.

1.3. Website Development

Drupal 9 Upgrade

Some changes to the back-end of the website have been made but nothing that will affect the website users.

2. Publications and Research Activities

Action

2.1. HMinfo Publications

a) Current

(i) **Consumer Factsheet: Fire Safety - Escape**

b) Future

(i) **Summary Bulletin and/or Industry Factsheet and/or Consumer Factsheet: Assistive Technology – Smart Controls**

(ii) **2nd ed: Summary Bulletin – Home Fire Safety Egress (2005)**

(iii) User request for a Factsheet on OT/Builder roles in CHSP/HCP

2.2. Grant Applications

No recent submissions

3. Events & Training

Action

(a) Rights and Inclusion Australia Annual Forum

(b) 2021 National Home Modifications Conference: Ramping it up

(c) Sydney Disability Expo

(d) Sydney Build 2022

4. Governance & Administration

Action

(a) KPMG report: Review of the Sector Support and Development (SSD) service type of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP). Clearinghouse was recommended for continued funding as a national information service provider.

(b) KV to put link to survey on website

- (b) MOD.A have set up a survey to gauge response to the new CHSP payments system. KV to put link to survey on website.

5. EBEP Funded Projects

Action

5.1. GWA / Caroma: Under basin clearances for wheelchairs

Project extension until June 2022

6. Other Business

Action

- (a) CB was a guest on the Talking Architecture and Design podcast (Episode 76: Professor Catherine Bridge on how well we design bathrooms for aged care and can we do better?)
- (b) Australian Network for Universal Housing Design is seeking assistance to lobby state governments regarding implementing the accessibility standards for new housing in the National Construction Code.
- (c) Vincent D'Cruz has left HMinfo and Kim Andersen will be taking over his duties at the Clearinghouse, 2 days per week. For future contacts please send correspondence to the hminfo@fbe.unsw.edu.au email address.
- (d) Members discussed the difficulties around dealing with multiple funding bodies, individual organisational roadblocks and getting people the home modifications they need.

7. Reports from Committee Members

Action

DS

- Informed the group that the Federal government has legislation going through with respect to cross-departmental information sharing (DVA, NDIA, Department of Ageing, etc.). This would enable accreditation between organisations to be shared between departments.

LR

- BRM project is delayed but still expected to go ahead. Requires some sign-off from the executive prior to launch.

GK

- SCIA lodged a submission to the inquiry into the options to improve access to existing and alternate accommodation and submissions has now closed.
- SCIA did a member survey to identify strategic priorities and found a focus on accessible housing for people with disability, people over 65 and the lack of appropriate support funding and the basic access to assistive technology, regardless of which program people might have access to or will be eligible for. In collaboration with UTS they have six (6) students to research the three areas identified

AH

- Raised the issue of grab rail attachments on steel frame buildings, noting the distances between studs. FR raised issues related to electricity running through the steel frames and securing screws through the thin metal stripping out over time. They have had some success with using 16mm paneling on the entire wall that's painted to match

KV to review available information and forward all information to AH.

Close

Dr Konstantina Vasilakopoulou closed the meeting at 4.40pm.

Next Advisory Committee Meeting

9 December 2021