



The University of Sydney

Faculties of Health Sciences and Architecture

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

Advisory Committee Minutes

www.homemods.info

**Minutes of the HMM Information Clearinghouse Advisory
Committee**

23 February 2006

At 3.00 p.m.

**Dean's Meeting Room,
The Faculty of Architecture
University of Sydney**

Present

Joe Harrison (Disability Council of NSW)

Ian Maxwell (Orange HMMS)

Stacey Sheppard-Smith (Aged & Community Services Association of
NSW & ACT)

Toni Adams (DADHC)

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

Rebecca Rodgers (NSW Department of Veterans Affairs)

Apologies

Peter Phibbs (Faculty of Architecture, University of Sydney)

Tony Ciesiolka (NSW Department of Housing)

Danielle Fisher (Health & Community Care Branch, NSW Department
of Health)

Anne Reeve (South Coast Home Modification & Maintenance Service)

Jane Bringolf (Independent Living Centre of NSW)

Melinda Paterson (HACC Development Officer, Sutherland)

Steve Malvern (NSW Statewide Home Modification Service)

Chair

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

Note taker

Ms Catherine (Katy) Bridge

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

Katy opened the meeting at 3.15 p.m. Apologies were noted. Katy noted that Phillipa Brennan had left health and returned to DADHC. Phillipa's replacement is Danielle Fisher (Manger; Dementia, carers and Disability from the Department of Primary Health and Community Partnerships. They are currently short staffed and a new contracted staff member will start shortly, thus it is unclear if Danielle will be attending at the next meeting

2. Minutes from the last meeting

Rebecca noted that a mistake had been made in the apologies for the last meeting. Peter Phibbs was listed as an apology but was in fact present, otherwise the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as true and accurate record.

Correct attendance record of last meetings minutes

3. Clearinghouse update**Staffing Changes:**

Katy mentioned that Rolf von Behrens left our project in January to take up an IT position in Germany.

Webstats:

Katy provided a summary of the web statistics for the period from Nov 11, 2006 till Tue, Feb 21, 2006. The number of page views to date is 55,970, whilst Total Visitors numbers are 7,862. In the period Nov 05 to February 06 there were 57 countries. Nevertheless 98% of visitors over this period were Australian.

See attached report

Usability Survey report

Katy tabled the draft final report for the website usability survey commissioned by the clearinghouse to better inform programmed and planned website changes as part of the HS-NET move. The report details responses from a range of stakeholders (i.e. 53 respondents across six professional areas) the majority of whom had never heard of the website). While it was clear that of the 53 survey respondents only (26%) indicated that they had previously visited the website. Of the respondents who had used the website by far the most common method of hearing about the website, was friend or business associate (31%); Training (21%); Newspaper/magazine article (16%); HMMS regional forums (11%); and the HMMS State Council (5%). Additionally, a number were unable to accurately recall where they had first heard of the website (16%). This implies that the most effective form of marketing is by 'trusted sources' (peers, forums and newspapers). The majority of respondents (84%) were likely to recommend the website to others.

See attached report

HSNet:

Katy reported that the MOU had been signed off and the specifications for the new website agreed (these were circulated at the meeting and are attached) these included a Content Management System (CMS) and usage of open source software. A CMS is just software that enables one to add and/or manipulate content on a website. Open source software is more sustainable in the long term because:
(1) Generically, open source refers to a program in which the source code is available to the general public for use and/or modification from

See attached web specification document. Stacey requested that Katy present the test website to the State Council at their next

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its original design free of charge, i.e., open. Open source code is typically created as a collaborative effort in which programmers improve upon the code and share the changes within the community. Open source sprouted in the technological community as a response to proprietary software owned by corporations i.e. Microsoft which requires annual license renewals etc.

(2) A certification standard issued by the Open Source Initiative (OSI) that indicates that the source code of a computer program is made available free of charge to the general public. The rationale for this movement is that a larger group of programmers not concerned with proprietary ownership or financial gain will produce a more useful and bug-free product for everyone to use. The concept relies on peer review to find and eliminate bugs in the program code, a process which commercially developed and packaged programs do not utilize. Programmers on the Internet read, redistribute and modify the source code, forcing an expedient evolution of the product. The process of eliminating bugs and improving the software happens at a much quicker rate than through the traditional development channels of commercial software as the information is shared throughout the open source community and does not originate and channel through a corporation's research and development cogs.

OSI dictates that in order to be considered "OSI Certified" a product must meet the following criteria:

- ▶ The author or holder of the license of the source code cannot collect royalties on the distribution of the program
- ▶ The distributed program must make the source code accessible to the user
- ▶ The author must allow modifications and derivations of the work under the program's original name
- ▶ No person, group or field of endeavour can be denied access to the program
- ▶ The rights attached to the program must not depend on the program's being part of a particular software distribution
- ▶ The licensed software cannot place restrictions on other software that is distributed with it.

After looking at 52 potential CMS systems the clearinghouse decided on 'Drupal' an open source CMS widely used by non-government organisations and specially designed to promote the development of online communities. Drupal is a CMS and blogging engine which was originally written by Dries Buytaert as a bulletin board system. Drupal has become much more, thanks to its flexible architecture. Drupal is written in PHP using strict coding convention. More information about Drupal and its origins can be found at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drupal>. One of its best known applications is CivicSpace <http://civicspacelabs.org/home/civicspace/features> and CiviCRM <http://openngo.org/>. Having made the decision to go with Drupal, Gordon Heydon, a Drupal programmer was engaged and the structure and databases moved into the new software to test basic functionality. Katy demonstrated the test system and there was general feedback from all present that it looked logical and feasible. To get to the test systems use the following url.

<http://homemods.heydon.com.au>

Please Note: There is global password to stop the search engines. This

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meeting in March, Stacey will email Katy with details and directions.

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will not be there on the final website.

user: home

password: mods

WFOT 2006 CONGRESS

Toni announced that the HACCC program was now the major sponsor of the Sydney based World Federation Occupational Therapy (WFOT) congress and that the new HS-Net integrated clearinghouse website would be launched by the Minister at the WFOT Congress in July.

Systematic Review Updates

Katy reported that the grabrail diameter study was complete but that Lara was still to meet with Julie Cameron to sort authorship as Julie Cameron resigned early 2005 leaving the grabrail diameter study incomplete. This was because there was a query raised re the most appropriate form of measurement for practice. Getting this resolved required international consultation and took time. Since then the review has undergone another database search to include the current research and has resulted in a more compact paper. The final paper was circulated at the meeting. The grabrail orientation and tile coating studies have also been posted on the website. The ground level lighting study is complete but has yet to be published and the grabrail orientation Industry and consumer fact sheets are still not finalised.

Hot topic Summaries

Katy reported that the current hot topic summary in process is the Legal basis of standards in the home. Members stated how helpful the hot topics were and a number of new hot topic summary topics was suggested as follow:

- ▶ Demountable ramps
- ▶ Work cover changes
- ▶ BASIX ratings on plumbing
- ▶ Lever taps and
- ▶ Hand held showers

Events & Training

Design and Construction for the Future

Toni reported that she had received a submission from the ILC for training stemming from this workshop.

Northcott Workshop

This is the second requested workshop on modifications for children; it was to have been held in March but has been postponed till April. We are trialing live digital capture and hope to make the workshop available on the website shortly following its delivery

International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence (ICADI)

This conference was held in February at St Petersburg Florida <http://icadi.php.ufl.edu/2006/> and the clearinghouse was involved in four papers and a symposium all within the housing home modification

Actions

Katy to liase with Judy Harwood and Krysten Alcorn at DADHC to find out more about what exactly this involves.

See attached report

Katy to discuss and prioritise with the clearinghouse team for actioning.

Katy to forward list of names to Stacey for consideration by

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and Universal design stream. There were seven conference tracks: Assistive Devices, Housing, Home Modification & Universal Design, Injury Prevention, Robotics, Smart Homes, Telehealth and Transportation. Two of the papers were written up and published in an edited book of papers accompanying the conference. Katy reported that there was considerable interest in the clearinghouse and in how home modifications are dealt with in Australia. Moreover, a number of participants indicated that they were interested in finding out more about the Home Modification and Maintenance State Council bi-annual conference. Katy recommended that Stacey consider Ed Steinfeld the academic who chaired the Housing, Home Modification & Universal Design stream from the State University of New York at Buffalo as a possible keynote speaker as Ed indicated that he wanted to visit Australia in September anyway.

People in Place in People, the 1st International Symposium on Environment, Behaviour and Society (EBS)

This inaugural international gathering was held in February at the Faculty of Architecture in Sydney, Australia. The clearinghouse presented a paper on the principles for dementia day centre design. The powerpoints from this will be available for download soon at <http://www.arch.usyd.edu.au/web/research/ebs/ebssymposium/web/powerpoints.htm>.

2nd IEEE International Conference on Information & Communication Technologies: From Theory To Applications (Disabilities and Ageing Satellite workshop)

This conference will be held in April in Syria and the clearinghouse has had two papers accepted and has been asked to chair the session on intelligent environments.

Other Clearinghouse Projects

Dementia design guidelines

Katy reported that the clearinghouse presented the principles and distributed a précis of the work to date (see attached report distributed at meeting) to the NSW dementia reference group in early February. The presentation was well received and the clearinghouse is awaiting information re two best practice facilities to visit. Phase two of the work as commissioned involves breaking the principles into features that can be audited and preparing architectural graphics to assist those involved in capital works and refurbishments.

Other business

My Virtual Home project

Katy reported that she had had two follow-up conversations with Paul Condon the director who is still very keen to proceed. The plan is to develop a funding strategy to enable: presentation and trade display at the State Council conference and research that would enable the software to demonstrate an accessible home. This would involve providing some accessible floor plans, and ensuring that the appropriate accessible products are available i.e. ramps, lever taps, hot water regulators, hand held shower hoses, non-slip tiles etc. It is also proposed to look at whether access to the system by Home modification services and Occupational Therapists has positive impacts on client communication with improved satisfaction and enhanced understanding of home modification potential.

Actions

State Council for action re the upcoming bi-annual conference.

Katy to write a proposal for work to be undertaken and for this to be progressed with State Council, DADHC and My Virtual Home peoples.

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EPPA

Stacey reported that she and Ruth Ley had met with Peter Phibbs to develop a strategy. Ruth had also been in contact with Katy re the accessible housing report being developed by the ABCB and the Victorian Building Codes Board. Katy reported that this had stalled and although a report from the consultation will be released soon neither the Victorian Building Codes Board nor the majority of stakeholders consulted were happy with the process.

Next Advisory Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 25th May 2006 at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney.

Meeting closed at 5.10 p.m.