



## Advisory Committee Minutes

### Meeting of the HM Information Clearinghouse Advisory Committee

Date 12 March 2009

Time: 2:00.pm – 4:00pm

Centre for Health Assets Australasia (CHAA)

The University of NSW

#### Present

Dr Catherine (Katy) Bridge (HM Information Clearing House, Centre for Health Assets Australasia, The University of NSW)

Claudia Kennedy (DADHC)

Tamara Rhineheart (DADHC)

Robyn Chapman (Independent Living Centre NSW)

Ruth Robinson (Physical Disability Council of NSW)

Nicholas Loder (NSW Housing)

David Gonzalez (Life Time care, Support)

Sandi Lightfoot Collins (NSW Department of Health)

Sue Dinley (DVA NSW)

Mark Ellis (SCOPE Access)

#### Apologies

Amelia Starr (Disability Council of NSW)

Stacey Sheppard Smith (HMMS State Council)

Ian Maxwell (Wesley Mission)

Steve Malvern (KKCC Statewide )

#### Chair

Dr Catherine (Katy) Bridge (HMInfo, CHAA ,UNSW)

#### Note taker

Andrew Clark (HMInfo, CHAA ,UNSW)

## 1. Welcome, introduction & apologies

Katy opened the meeting at 2.00 p.m.

Minutes from the last meeting

Minutes were amended to reflect Robyn Chapman employed at ILC. Accepted.

Apologies were noted.

**CB** To amend previous minutes and ensure that the ones uploaded to the website reflect this change.

## 2. Clearinghouse update

Webstats: Katy tabled the last quarter's webstat report. Katy provided a summary of the webstats for the period from Dec 11<sup>th</sup> 2008 until March 11<sup>th</sup> 2009. The total number of page views to date is 309,898, whilst total Visitors numbers are 71,479. In the period covered there was 10,535 visitors from 113 countries. Nevertheless 66% of visitors over this period were Australian, with the breakdown as follows: New South Wales accounting for (34%) Victoria (11%) Queensland (11%), Western Australia (4%), South Australia (3%), Australian Capital Territory (2%), Tasmania (1%) & others (34%). It was noted that the growth in US mainly due to AOTA designating HMinfo site as a site of evidence based practice. Queensland Health interested in discharge and home mods competencies so there has been a rise in number of visitors over time from Queensland.

Noted

## 3. Publications

### 3.1 Systematic Review Updates

A number of systematic reviews are currently in progress and are awaiting finalisation ISSN and final formatting. These include; Colours and older people with visual impairment; Effectiveness of ceiling hoists. Rural Home Modifications and Annotated Bibliography regarding stair design for disability.

Noted.

These will be posted on the HMinfo website following their finalisation and new publication template consistent with CHAA and UNSW requirements.

To be finalised by next meeting.

Robyn Chapman ILC ; suggested that publications on HMinfo should be linked to and included on ILC design database.

**CB** to ensure that ILC gets final publication for cataloguing.

Claudia Kennedy, noted that the HACCC program requires that the HACCC logo and its text be reproduced large enough to enable HACCC service users to read it and in a position of prominence.

**CB** to ensure publications meet this requirement.

Sandi Lightfoot reported that the OTs in her service found the publications very useful.

A consumer / advocate contacted Dr Bridge to report that the 'Designing home environments for people who experience problems with cognition and who display aggressive or self-injurious behaviours' publication was excellent and she would recommend this to others.

## 4. Conferences

Katy reported that the HMinfo team had a number of posters accepted at International conferences. One is to be presented in Singapore in June 2009 on gardening publication and another two on the Reverse Mortgage and Asia-Pacific informal care projects are to be presented at the World Conference Gerontology July 2009. Another, poster on ceiling hoists has been accepted as a part of the ACHSW 2009 National Congress in Qld in July. An abstract has been submitted to the 4<sup>th</sup> Australasian Housing Researchers Conference but no feedback has as

Noted.

yet been received about its success or otherwise.

## **5. Other Clearinghouse Projects**

### **5.1 My Virtual Home project**

Dr Bridge reported on the My virtual home teaching initiative. This six credit unit of study was offered to all enrolled students in the Faculty of FBE during the 08/09 summer recess, so attracted architects, interior design, industrial design, construction and computational design students it was a win:win for all concerned. CB in conjunction with other Faculty from UNSW (Tam Nuygen and Jim Plume) ran a cross-disciplinary course entitled 'Virtual Environments For Access Design (VEAD). VEAD attracted 23 enrolled students who worked to produce inclusive home re-designs based on personal analysis of either older people or people with disabilities. Additionally they created in 3-D max a number of universally designed furnishings, fittings and fixtures to populate the my virtual software. Feedback from students on project and coordinators was excellent. A win for HMinfo was that the set of 3D accessible components produced can now be used within the MyVirtual Home for the consumer usability trial. A win for the students was that they valued the course and learnt a lot about inclusive design not otherwise available to them as students. The official url for our course website is: <http://vead-2009.wetpaint.com/>. As a result of such positive student feedback FBE are now looking at offering this unit again and or making it a mainstream offering.

Noted.

### **5.2 Off the Rails**

The 'off the rails' multi-media project is now complete. UNSW TV has launched a UNSW YouTube community website and is producing video materials. They have agreed to host the multi-media material. There are currently 15 Home Modification videos already available on YouTube of varying quality. A launch of the HMinfo video is to occur by end of June 2009, but the details are yet to be determined. Peter Trute in the Media Office has been in touch with Peter Baker from DADHC about the "Off the Rails" launch. The video's are now available for use in education and training programs and can be downloaded from the following weblinks:

Noted.

OFF THE RAILS - Part 1 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ew793CAkFwU>

OFF THE RAILS - Part 2 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slo4rCr7t7k>

Katy has a meeting with Mary O'Malley the Director of UNSW TV to discuss further how UNSW TV can make and deliver other media of relevance to the sector.

**CB** to follow up with UNSW Media and TV units.

### **5.3 Reverse Mortgages**

Katy is the project leader on this AHURI funded project which is now underway. A systematic review has been conducted, products and statistics analysed and a survey of mortgage practitioners is currently underway. The final phase of the work a series of National and Sydney based consultations with older people are to be held over the next 2 months.

Noted.

### **5.4 House of representatives enquiry into Access**

Katy reported that HMinfo has made a submission to the 'Inquiry into the draft Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards'. The Home Modification Information Clearinghouse submission is number 29 and available for download in PDF and RTF see

[www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/disabilitystandards/subs/sub029.rtf](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/disabilitystandards/subs/sub029.rtf).

Noted.

## **6. Other Business**

### **6.1 Memorandums of understanding**

Currently the clearinghouse has a MOU with HSNET. The ILC has been sent a MOU by HMinfo and RC reported that she believed that this would be signed off shortly following the next ILC Board meeting but pending approval by the ILC-NSW Board Members.

The proposed MOU with HMM state council been ongoing since May 2008. Claudia Kennedy reported that she had spoken to HMM State Council about this but that the State Council had wanted to have independent advice before signing. However Claudia Kennedy noted some surprise that this issues had not progressed and suggested that if necessary that an independent mediator could be employed to assist in this matter. Claudia Kennedy noted that given the length of time it has taken to resolve it would seem there are other issues that may need to be teased out. She noted that this needs to be resolved between the two parties and but did not require intervention by DADHC. Claudia reported it was her understanding was that HMinfo and HMM NSW State Council were working together.

**CB** to follow up and report back at the next Adv Comm Meeting.

### **6.2 Technical manual HMM State Council.**

Katy reported that HMinfo had provided general comment on the Home Modification and Maintenance technical manual but no specific feedback on the contents. However concern was raised that the turn around period was very short and was over the UNSW Christmas closedown period making it impossible for HMinfo to provide extensive or detailed feedback. Sue Dinley reported that DVA had not seen the document to comment on. Both the ILC and Sandi Lightfoot had seen the draft document but both reported that the turn around period for comment was too short. Claudia reported that DADHC had provided comment on the policy contained within it only. The technical manual will be launched on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009 after the legally speaking workshop.

### **6.3 Work Cover and Liability**

Sue Dinley gave some background to this working-group, which resulted from a Work Cover training given on the Central Coast. The fact that Occupational Therapists might be responsible for project management of builders and therefore responsible for trade work caused considerable concern amongst both health and Home Modification and Maintenance employees. There was consensus that confusion existed around the building codes and standards that caused problems especially when Occupational Therapists may be required to recommend work for a specific client, which was not consistent with existing standards. It was also identified AS 1428 pt 1. is part of the problem as many people with severe functional problems plie out side the range of standards e.g. anyone outside the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. These are also minimal standards and the anthropometrics are over 20 years old. Sandi Lightfoot reported that a high-level modification had been refused because they did not conform to standards. Claudia Kennedy reported hat she had read technical document in response to concerns and understood technical document did allow for variations if the OT asked them to do so. It was noted that there was an OT employed by HMM State Council. Claudia raised concern that different groups appeared not to be talking to each other about these issues and that there was a level of confusion in relation to this matter. It was noted that the Legally Speaking workshop organised by HMM Sate Council was considering this but there was some concern that it might not address all the issues at the core and that the cost workshop might be excessive for many allied health staff who might benefit. Robyn Chapman

**SD** to attend legally speaking workshop and report back at next Adv Comm.

suggested a discussion on this could be done as a POD cast to ensure that rural therapists / allied health and Home Modification and Maintenance teams could access it as an in service to educate workers to the complex issues surrounding this matter.

## **7. Research**

### **7.1 OT Based research.**

Sandi Lightfoot reported that she employs a range of Occupational Therapists and also has regular students. Therefore the service has lot of data and experience. The service would like to build upon on this to develop QA based good and strong research methods and practise. Elizabeth an OT funded from Housing and co-located with the Camden service is also interested in research partnership as is Vanessa Richards from the Hunter region.

**CB** to continue discussions but these will need formalising, prioritising & resourcing.

Group would like to consider assessment forms / type data collected / outcomes

### **7.2 Physical Disability Council.**

Ruth reported on the 2008 survey of people with disabilities across New South Wales carried out by the Physical Disability Council of New South Wales (PDCN). The broad goal of the survey was to investigate the impact of ageing on people with a disability in a number of key areas: Personal Assistance, Mobility/Transport, Housing, Social Networks, Health/Disability and Financial Security. About one third of people surveyed live in the family home. Eleven percent of people surveyed reported a need for home modifications as personal mobility decreased. There is also need for affordable and accessible housing for people ageing with a disability and some people expressed concern at the cost and availability of aged care accommodation whereas others expressed a desire to remain at home.

Noted.

### **7.3 NSW Housing.**

Requested that research or evidence on Stair lifts and domestic lifts would be useful. It was noted that there were a number of trade displays such as the ACORN Stair lifts on display at the HMM Biannual conference, and housing would welcome some independent advice on the value of these e.g. usage, serviceability, outcome, cost etc.

**CB** to follow up with housing as there was some consensus that an evidence-based report would assist (NSW Housing)

Issues identified in discussion were; some lifts serviceability was not good, and there were a number of problems with stair design and structural integrity etc. which made deployment difficult. Vertical Lifts are also expensive, and there are structural problems in both installing and removing them. Further, the quotes don't always include an engineering or structural assessment nor the wiring required to ensure an adequate and safe power supply. Maintenance can also be very expensive on an ongoing basis. The inability to trail this product can also be a problem as peoples functional needs can be very varied.

### **7.4 Ranking of Research**

It was requested by Katy that the group assist in the review and prioritisation of research / review. It was suggested that there should be an online form to help to help with this and that these could then be culled at the Adv. Comm. meeting. This would include views from workers as well as service users.

**CB** to present sample form at next meeting.



***Next Advisory Committee Meeting***

The next meeting will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009 in the Level 1 Meeting Room at the Faculty of the Built environment, Red Centre Building, Kensington Campus of the UNSW.

**Meeting closed 3.45**