



Home Modification Information Clearinghouse

Never Stand Still

Built Environment

Newsletter

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From the Editor

Welcome to our quarterly instalment of the HMinfo Newsletter.

Since our previous newsletter was published HMinfo has been working on a number of different projects. On the 23rd January 2018, a new Consumer factsheet titled, "Hot water safety in bathrooms" was published. It is designed to inform consumers about the Regulatory Requirements for Controlling Water Temperature in Bathrooms and is based on an earlier Summary Bulletin (2016) aimed at researchers and industry. The Consumer Factsheet provides information on the temperature in which water needs to be stored and how it can be delivered in safe temperatures in our bathrooms to avoid burns. The publication also includes a description of the systems that could be used for regulating the water temperature and a very useful checklist of the things a consumer needs to be aware of to reduce the risk of burns. You can download the Consumer Factsheet: Hot water safety in bathrooms, [here](#).

In the next few days, HMinfo will also be publishing a new Summary Bulletin about slip resistant floor surfaces, with information on the parameters affecting slip-resistance of surfaces, the regulatory requirements and guidelines on slip-resistance and an overview of the materials that can be used in residential floor surfaces to reduce the risk of slipping, including the characteristics of these surfaces.

Currently, HMinfo's is focusing on all aspects of ramps for users with mobility impairments to better inform consumers, industry and researchers. This research is designed to expand the current knowledge base of understanding how ramps are utilised and designed in hope to make them better for users.

During the last few weeks we have been working to improve and enhance our website, so stay tuned for more news and upcoming events in the fields of home modifications, assistive technology, health, ageing and disability.

HMinfo Research

- Report submitted - Access01/Ramps1 - Desk Audit/Literature Review of Ramp Traversability by Wheelchairs and Mobility Scooters (Quantification and Metrics)
- Draft Report submitted - Ramps 2 - Verification Method Traversability
- Report submitted - Stairs1 - Desk Audit/Literature Review of Stair Traversability (Quantification and Metrics)
- Draft Report submitted - Stairs2 - Verification Method Stair Traversability (Quantification and Metrics)

- First Wayfinding submission - Access Handbook

Home Modification Resources

Book Review - THE MANUAL HANDLING REVOLUTION

This book attempts to guide allied health professionals through the process of recommending manual handling routines, so to ensure their clients are safe and that the care workers are resourced. It explains the client experience of manual handling and provides a process for meeting the client's needs. It also discusses the challenges for care workers and why they are at high risk of physical injury and stress.

The loss of the ability to move is usually a frustrating realisation. When the movement of one person depends on another person, this instantly means narrowing of the personal choices and loss of privacy. On the other hand, the manual carrying of a human person very often is a hazard for the carer. The book describes the procedures and actions that the health professionals can take to ensure the safety and satisfaction of all the stakeholders.

The first part of the book deals with the difficulties that manual handling involves and it investigates the expertise expected from the health professionals in solving manual handling problems. In the second part, the challenges with the assessment in achieving a safe and efficient manual handling routine are outlined and explores whether focusing on safety alone is the best way to solve manual handling problems. Finally, in the third section of the book the principles to achieving a successful manual handling routine are outlined

"Manual Handling Revolution" is a book dealing with a subject that is a source of frustration and stress for the health professionals, who often feel overwhelmed by the assessment process. It succeeds in offering a comprehensive guide for allied health professionals to address this issue, while keeping their clients and care workers safe and satisfied.

Guide to Assistive Equipment and Home Modifications

The [Independent Living Centre WA](#), in partnership with the [WA Home and Community Care Program \(HACC\)](#), have recently published the guide "Making choices, Finding solutions", which provides information on the assistive equipment and various home modifications that can make every day tasks easier for everyone.

The guide gives simple and easy to follow instructions and advice on how to re-arrange your home environment, how to protect yourself during everyday chores and which are the professionals that could help you depending on your needs. The first part of the guide explains what assistive technologies and home modifications are, how you can identify your needs and how you can find solutions for them.

The second part includes specific advice on the following areas:

- Kitchen: Information on how to make kitchen housework easier and put less strain on your body. Safety issues are covered and equipment is suggested.
- Housework: Tips for cleaning, picking up and reaching things and safety advice.
- Bathroom: Explains the main bathroom modifications and gives advice on the ways to make bath-time easier.

- Laundry: Includes tips for washing, ironing and hanging out the laundry.
- Outdoor tasks: Advice on gardening, shopping, getting in and out of the car and outdoor modifications.
- Recreation: Tips for using technology and recreation modifications and advice.
- Emergency and memory: Solutions for memory frustrations and resources for memory related disorders.

Overall, this is a comprehensive and easy to follow guide, with plenty of suggestions for appliances and equipment that can help deal with the everyday chores safely and effortlessly. You can download the Guide [here](#).

Study Report: National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Costs

The [Productivity Commission of the Australian Government](#) published a study report on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) costs, in October 2017. The aim of the report was to:

- assess the scheme costs and give directions for any potential cost overruns;
- look at whether jurisdictions have the capacity to provide disability and support services as the scheme expands;
- describe how the NDIS interacts with mainstream services;
- the overall efficiency of the scheme;
- judge whether the scheme design provides the best possible outcomes for people with profound or severe permanent disability;
- assess funding and governance arrangements.

The problems identified

The report highlights some of the delays and discrepancies between the initial planning for the implementation of the NDIS and the current situation. It is highlighted that if these transitional issues are not addressed, there will be serious risks for the future of the scheme.

- The NDIA has the difficult task to increase the scheme participants to 475,000 by 2019-2020. That means that the NDIA needs to approve hundreds of plans every day. This need for quick process of the scheme participants has led to lack of plan quality and consistency, according to the Commission.
- Even though the number of plans approved daily is significant and is going to be even higher during 2018-2019 (500 plans will need to be approved every day, while hundreds more will need to be reviewed), the initial timetable for participant intake will not be met. That means that not all the eligible participants will have entered the scheme and have an approved plan by 2019-2020. The Commission stresses the need for a new participant intake timetable, and a planning for the financial implications of this delay.
- The increased number of scheme participants will cause an increased need for disability support services. There is a risk that the demand will exceed supply, creating inflationary and quality pressures in the market. According to the Commission the prices should be monitored and controlled and the governments have to develop markets, in order to overcome this issue.
- The integration of NDIS and other services has to be managed more efficiently, so that the continuity of service is assured.

The costs of the scheme

Even though the costs of the scheme appear to be on track compared to the expectations (based on data from the trial and transition periods), there are emerging cost pressures that need to be addressed for the

financial sustainability of the scheme. These cost pressures are associated with the large number of children entering the scheme, the number of people approaching the scheme in trial sites that have been operating the longest, the low number of people exiting the scheme, the increasing levels of committed support as participants move to their second and third plans and the inconsistencies in planners' decisions. NDIA has already taken measures to address these pressures, with the Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) and the use of reference package data to reduce variability in the level of support provided to participants with similar conditions.

Other information provided in the report

The report includes detailed information on many other aspects of the scheme that may be of interest to the participants and their environment, such as the eligibility criteria, the supports, the planning process and the market readiness. Also, it provides recommendations for the quality of planning and participants' experiences with the NDIA. You can download the Productivity Commission - Study Report on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Costs, [here](#)

Events

[LASA Tri-State Conference - Albury, NSW 4-6 February 2018](#)

[Delivering Quality in the NDIS - Sydney 27-28 February 2018](#)

[Quality in Aged Care - Sydney 6-7 March 2018](#)

Publications by HMinfo Team

HMinfo research

Quinn, J. and Bridge, C. (2018). Consumer Factsheet: Hot water safety in bathrooms. 1st ed. Sydney; Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Australia. (January). Available at www.homemods.info

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Any suggestions or feedback you may have on our newsletter would be greatly appreciated, so please feel free to contact us at hminfo@unsw.edu.au. To unsubscribe from future HMinfo newsletters, please click [unsubscribe](#).

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Australian Government
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Family & Community Services
Ageing, Disability & Home Care



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