



Newsletter

Edition 57 | 9th September 2020

Editor's Note

Welcome to the third instalment of the HMinfo Newsletter for 2020.

As many of the HMinfo Clearinghouse subscribers spend more time at home than they would pre-COVID-19, we decided to publish newsletters more often and provide links to more resources that are of interest to our audience. So, less than two months after our previous newsletter, we are sharing our most recent publications, plus publications by others, from credible scientific journals and disability advocacy organisations.

As many of you might know, ABCB requested input from all stakeholders for the final Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) on the inclusion of accessibility requirements for housing into the National Construction Code (NCC). The RIS was developed by the Centre for International Economics (CIE) and the consultation period ended on the 31st of August 2020. The HMinfo Clearinghouse responded to the consultation of the RIS, supporting both Options 2 and 5 presented in the RIS:

- Option 2: Accessibility standard, broadly reflecting LHDG gold standard, in the NCC applying to all new Class 1a and Class 2 buildings, AND
- Option 5: A subsidy program to encourage additional availability of accessible rental properties.

Adoption of Livable housing standards equate to Universal housing design and can address the key needs of disability and care outside some accommodations for mobility dysfunction. HMinfo believes that Option 2 is the required minimum, with any combinations of options an addition to this. However, the assumption that universal design will substantively reduce the need for home modification is fundamentally flawed, as only less than 2% of houses are new build annually and because the percentage of universally designed houses that could alleviate the need for home modification is unknown. HMinfo strongly supports the funding of research on how home modifications and accessible buildings can provide a safe and comfortable home for independent older people and people with disability.

You can find the full text of the HMinfo response to the RIS [here](#).

Our research focus has lately been around the assessment tools of the functional ability and of the home environment of older people and people with disability. The COVID-19 outbreak has established a new need for assessment and communication without physical presence of professionals in the consumer's home, to protect the health of both. The forthcoming HMinfo publication has collated and critically

assessed the available self-assessment tools of functional ability and how this is affected by the home characteristics and elements.

We would also like to remind you that our [COVID-19 factsheet](#), is frequently updated to reflect government and international instructions and guidelines. This factsheet is addressed to the industry (OTs, home modifications providers, etc) and aims to protect both professionals and consumers from contracting COVID-19.

We are always happy to receive your feedback about our publications and your suggestions for future projects. Until our next newsletter, keep safe!

RECENT HMinfo RESOURCES

Consumer Factsheet: Home Lighting

This factsheet aims to inform older people, people with disability and their carers about the properties of the most common household lights and assist them choose the right light bulb for their needs. Lighting is an important parameter in home design, enabling safety and comfort for the performance of everyday tasks, such as walking, reading, cooking, etc.

[Download this resource from the HMinfo website](#)



Industry Factsheet: COVID-19

This factsheet aims to give information on how health professionals and service providers working with older people and people with disability can protect themselves and their clients during the COVID-19 outbreak. The publication is updated frequently during this health emergency.

[Download this resource from the HMinfo website](#)



Consumer Factsheet: Arranging Home Modifications, Ed. 2

Home modifications increase people's wellbeing and reduce the need for care at home. This publication helps people arrange modifications that will enable them to be safer and more comfortable in their home. The steps to decide which home modifications are the best for your home as well as ways to apply for funding are included.

[Download this resource from the HMinfo website](#)



Designing home environments for people who experience problems with cognition and who display aggressive or self-injurious behaviour. Ed. 2

Three HMinfo publications (Evidence Based Practice Review, Industry Factsheet and Consumer Factsheet), addressed to different audiences, provide information to assist people with cognitive impairments and their carers to arrange modifications that will enable them to be safer and more comfortable in their home. Strategies to reduce potential triggers and minimise the risk of property damage and of harm for people are provided.

[Download this resource from the HMinfo website](#)



Consumer Factsheet: Bidet douche seats, flexible hoses and bidets

This report informs consumers about the function of bidet douche seats, flexible hoses and bidets and about the hazards associated to non-compliant installations of these fittings in their bathrooms.

[Download this resource from the HMinfo website](#)



Other RESOURCES

Feasibility of Telehealth-delivered home safety evaluations for caregivers of clients with dementia.

Gately, M. E., Trudeau, S. A., & Moo, L. R. (2020). Feasibility of Telehealth-delivered home safety evaluations for caregivers of clients with dementia. *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*, 40(1), 42-49.

People with dementia are more prone to accidents in the home, because of cognitive changes. To address the dangers and the person's changing capabilities to perform daily tasks, OTs perform home safety assessments. This study by Gately et al. aims to evaluate the process and resource requirements of a telehealth home safety evaluation, provided by OTs to the person's caregivers. It primarily examines the technical and technological issues that need to be resolved for an effective Telehealth assessment and the safety implications of the video format. Since technological issues were present in most sessions, it was concluded that formal technical support was found to be necessary for an easier and faster process.

[View this resource on your browser](#)

Home Modifications to Improve Function and Safety in the United States

Keglovits, M. & Stark, S. (2020): Home Modifications to Improve Function and Safety in the United States, *Journal of Aging and Environment*, DOI:10.1080/26892618.2020.1743510

It is well documented that home modifications can help older people have a more comfortable and safe everyday life. This article describes the way home modifications are provided to older people in the USA, highlighting the fragmented delivery system and the lack of coordination. The authors support the development of coordinated systems, through the establishment of appropriate policy and funding changes to address current disabilities and prevent future functional declines of the older population, as well as to reduce healthcare costs. The education of professionals that deliver home modifications in the States is also suggested as a way to ensure that standardized home modification interventions are tailored to the individual.

[View this resource on your browser](#)

Can your house keep you out of a nursing home?

Diepstraten, M., Douven, R., & Wouterse, B. (2020). Can your house keep you out of a nursing home?. *Health Economics*, 29(5), 540-553.

This article analyses the relation between the degree of accessibility of a home to the use of nursing home care, and how this is affected by the age and health status of the tenants. The study's findings show that older people living in accessible homes are more likely to remain in their homes for longer than to move to a nursing home. This observation is more significant for older people and for people with physical problems rather than for people with cognitive limitations. It is also evident that older people living in accessible homes are more likely to use home care.

[View this resource on your browser](#)

The Safe Living Guide—A Guide to Home Safety for Seniors

Public Health Agency of Canada (2015). *The Safe Living Guide—A Guide to Home Safety for Seniors*.

This guide by the Public Health Agency of Canada provides advice on how to prevent injuries by keeping your home, yourself and your environment as safe as you can. Checklists allow you to verify and increase the safety of your surroundings and lifestyle, and real-life stories offer testimony to the value of adapting.

[View this resource on your browser](#)

Co-producing research with people with disability - University and community working together

UNSW Disability Innovation Institute (2020). Co-producing research with people with disability - University and community working together

The Guidelines set out key benefits, principles and strategies that underpin the DIU and UNSW's approach to co-producing research with people with disability. The content is drawn from a comprehensive review of the literature, the experience of leading inclusive researchers at UNSW, and DIU's community partner organisations of people with disability.

[View this resource on your browser](#)

EVENTS

Virtual OT Exchange 2020

To accommodate changes to our professional environment caused by COVID 19, the OT Exchange Program will be moving to new dates, (Monday 14 -Tuesday 15 September 2020) and the conference will be delivered online.

The new dates have been planned to consider the immediate needs of families, businesses and local communities during this period of rapid change.

[Link](#)

Universal Design Conference 2020

Centre for Universal Design Australia is delighted to bring you the 4th Australian Universal Design Conference. After the success of previous conferences we have set our sights across the wide world of universal design. This year the theme is, "Thriving with Universal Design: Everyone, Everywhere, Everyday". The theme provides opportunity for anyone working with or researching universal design and inclusive practice to contribute to this growing body of work. This conference comes with a promise to broaden delegates' thinking about the many ways universal design can be utilised and applied.

Mon 12 Oct 2020 - Tue 13 Oct 2020

Tue 13: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Mon 12: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Melbourne Showgrounds

[Link](#)

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