



## Advisory Committee Minutes

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**Meeting of the HM Information Clearinghouse Advisory Committee**

**16 Sept 2010**

**At 2.00 p.m.**

**Level 2 Meeting Room**

**Room 2046, West Wing,**

**The Faculty of the Built Environment**

**University of NSW**

### **Present**

Anne-Marie Elias (via teleconference)  
David Gonzalez  
Lesley Radbron  
Margaret Kay

### **Apologies**

Ameila Starr  
Claudia Kennedy  
Ian Maxwell  
Shalla Thomas  
Margaret Engelhardt  
Sandi Lightfoot-Collins

### **Chair**

A/Prof. Catherine Bridge

### **Note taker**

Rachel Walls

### **Notes**

### **Actions**

*1. Welcome, introduction & apologies*

A/Prof. Catherine Bridge opened the meeting at 2.25 p.m.  
Apologies were noted.

Minutes from the last meeting

Minutes were accepted with amendments to Margaret Kay's organisational attachment (listed as NSW Council of Social Services)

## **2. Clearinghouse update**

Webstats: tabled but not discussed. Please refer to webstats as attached for information regarding current activity and top 10 publications.

### **Publications and Research Activities**

Research activities and papers were tabled and spoken to, including:

**Preliminary Paper: *Bridging and Berming: Using landscaping techniques to improve accessibility of the home (project update)*** - New project funded by ADHC investigating cost-effective alternatives to ramps and lifts. These practices are used widely overseas, i.e. USA. Addresses drainage, termite protection/control issues, earth moving & grading. Presents a cheaper, more attractive solution with a greater acceptance by clients. The gradient ratio of 1:20-1:33 means no handrails or curves are required, although hard surfaces are still needed. It's overall easier to implement. Sadly bridging and berming is not well known in Australia, and there is little literature published on the subject. Gantt Chart presented to demonstrate progress in research processes (see report, attached). Intentions for surveys and interviews, hopefully identifying persons locally who have used this technique to gain data on issues related to the process

**Home Design and Modifications – finished, in review.**

**Training and Education of Home Modification and Allied Health Staff** - Kelly Walcott is still finishing off work, mentoring and training. Undertaking trade shows and conferences such as Synergy, Falls workshops, etc.

CB – work Jenny Fishpool is doing re home OT services. Currently there are no established policies, no feedback for learning/QA purposes, so the focus on mentoring has had a significant impact. There is no official program for mentoring within organized OT bodies.

LR – if there is application in Lifetime Care, there may be some funding that can be accessed for these kinds of projects. Home Mods is only 20-25% of business, but it's definitely part of it.

CB – problem is if it's broad enough to apply to our research

LR – support of a larger study would be supported so long as it met with key needs related to funding

CB – are there upcoming grant funding rounds, or an appropriate format?

LR – No formal round coming up but will send information.

**Aboriginal Housing** – this project has been delayed – Lyndall on maternity leave, so CB has taken ownership of this.

**Ramps and Lifts** – out for review. Yong has updated and supplied new factsheets (tabled, see attached).

CB - If you see anything you want to change or doesn't make sense, just let me know.

LR – Industry checklist is helpful

CB – it explains processes, how the factsheets work to prompt – an 'attention-directing framework'

MK – if somebody came across it, and hadn't read the main article, it could be a little confusing – the reference to the original article is not clear. Maybe it should be explained a bit more obviously.

CB – yes, and these still have to go for consumer and industry review.

MK – is there a directory of industry publications?

CB – yes

MK – what I was thinking was, if I picked up this one, would I be able to find a list of others?

CB – yes, we do keep a list of publications for conferences, stalls, events.

CB – people are downloading a lot of information but not really uploading. We are trying to encourage 'finding and asking' – we want to encourage people to share information. It's important for us to facilitate this.

MK – seems like a transition period, there are holes in learning. There's a change in NSW gov't & housing code is in flux – it's a good opportunity to address this issue.

CB – we are planning a meeting on this with ADHC, OFC < Planning – whole point is to sort out strategy – OT association is interested, ADHC is to host, and Planning Industry is interested but we need to follow up – no dates have been set.

MK – def. need NSW Planning in there – NSW housing code. For ADHC there are huge costs involved, just sending an OT out for half a day to do an assessment is so costly, so it would be great to address some of the issues there.

DG – please keep us in the loop

CB all we have is an agreed set of people to come, I will add you to that list. We don't have a date yet.

MK – do you have a contact in Planning? We're talking to them so I'll put you in touch.

## Events & Training

*Connected ED 2010 – 28 June-July1 2010.*

CB presented paper on Universal Design and Technology.  
*AHURI seminars and focus groups.*

AHURI focus groups has become something of a 'road show' with presentations around the country.

CB – there is a lot of interest around the fact that most people don't want to downsize, they like living in large spaces (such as 3 bedroom house)

Reverse Mortgages – looking how to finance, access to finance on house. CB invited to talk in Canberra, will update on this soon. Also another AHURI event upcoming in SA.

Policy Forums – national project – over 1,000 respondents to survey, also interviews following on from survey subjects and interviews with industry/policy makers.

There are forums upcoming around this.

CB – legislation changes causing a lot of NGOs to pull out of public housing

### *Urban Design Conference*

Published paper with Anne-Marie was put forward. State conference took place. Included the presentation of state-driven DVDs, one on difference between rural and urban Home Mods, and one of testimonials from clients who have experienced change as a result of Home Mods.

### *International Universal Design Conference*

A/P C. Bridge will take part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference for Universal Design in Hamamatsu, taking place from Oct 30<sup>th</sup> to Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### *FICCDAT*

There will be a session specifically on home modifications

DG – I need to get to that

CB – there is time to develop an abstract

## Other Funded Projects

### ***Sustaining 'aging in place'***

This project has wound up

### ***AHURI – Age Specific Housing Markets***

This is due Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, but is delayed due to supply of interviews from Murdoch University being behind schedule – 30 are due and only 5 received

## **AHURI – Older People's Housing Policy**

Coming along, will be out for review very soon.

## **Cost Benefits – wrap (research & policy bulletin)**

Released today.

## **Liveable Photo Project**

MK doing project with FBE on liveable outdoor spaces – to build up a resource of “things that work”

CB – we want to give people another (visual) benchmark

MK – It's hard to find good references

CB – part of the problem is, often there are “good bits” but also “bad bits” – you want to sell the good points without accidentally highlighting the bad. Sometimes just looking isn't enough, some details are needed.

MK – probably need a detailed description to go along with the pictures

CB – I also want to create some iPhone apps to allow older people to audit their own environment.

I saw a ‘smart board’ – it would be great to use in the photo project – because you can talk to them, circle bits of image while you are talking – so this would work really well for photos and plans.

CB to follow that up, could be a great resource. Smartboard helps reinforce concepts to facilitate teaching/learning process.

CB has access to a smart board on campus to pilot the concept.

A small extension has been requested to pay for extra photos related to this project.

## **Enabling Environments Template**

Tabled prototype

MK – councils would really love this, because they can check these things when they're doing DAs – Often people come in asking ‘can you look at this plan and let me know if its ok for disability access?’ They don't know, they're not trained in that area, so this will really help them.

DG – Is the scale right? I think on DAs it's 1:100 so councils may not find it too useful

CB – so that's why we want feedback. We are still looking into the A90 – all they did to create it was stretch the A80 by 10% so this is not accurate and that is a whole other issue. It could be a good additional project to measure the wheelchairs to see if they measure up to the plan of the A90 – there are size specs but nothing for turning circles, we have had to develop these ourselves.

DG – We should get back to the suppliers/manufacturers re this oversight

CB – Argos bath – reason for use – for highly dependent users, when you audit buildings, the bathrooms are non-functional. (None of this is documented so we'll have to write it up in a traditional format.) The bath trolley is included for aged care, group homes, etc. There is a clearly identified problem of trolleys in use but not fitting into designed space.

LR – Instead of going on the minimum

CB – yes, and with the ambulance trolley, if you can't get the trolley around switch back ramps, what can you do? Currently people are designing for the A90 chair, which is inappropriate.

MK – issue of scale is important, so its worthwhile to produce it at 1:100 as well.

CB – Pip provided this, she's an industrial designer with an interest in the elderly and their needs

**15:17 – Anne-Marie phones in, discussion of items from a range of 'other business' and research areas**

AM – (re Synergy conf) was great to be in that environment. I think everybody's in agreement, and I think everyone was keen to put their information into their reports.

A Radio National journalist contacted me, wanting to do a story on union, workforce, productivity issues.

MK – There's an Access Economics report that came out, options for funding aged care and presents options in reversed mortgages – It's on the front page of the AE website, that might help.

CB – I can talk on reverse mortgages

AM – how did you get it MK?

MK – I think I got it as a media release

CB – there's a home mods paper just finished

MK – we don't have much to do with workforces

CB – Lifetime Care?

LR – Yes, we have that interest.

AM – We're working on our election doc, so I need anything you want included.

CB – can you explain for the others?

AM – Age-friendly NSW – looks at aging across the life force, greater need for better coordination and cost-neutral solutions, strain on community transport and public transport. So if community transport is strained, then volunteering is the last line of defence – so funding required for councils to put forward proposals. Catch people falling through the cracks and safety nets, so it's about what happens there.

CB – In a car-based society you need pick-up and drop-off points

AM – Dementia and driving – but nothing around older people, there's nothing out of RTA about this.

CB – 60% of pedestrian fatalities are older people.

AM – Aging in place, with Alzheimer's, they add to the aged fatalities. Countdowns on street corners are useless for elderly pedestrians

CB – AFSCIA has been split up so it's been split into 3.

MK – there's a new minister for aging

CB – we need to look forward to the new organisation when things settle in gov't. Lifetime care, what's happening w/enable?

LR – a lot of concern for maintaining services, state-wide plan

MK – That is for a time is more about changing how providers provide services but there is no framework, its just a philosophy – no idea how it will impact on Allied Health

LR – Spinal Injuries impact?

CB – Home mods guidelines for spinal injury – a research group contacted me, said they can't find any info, I said to them it's hard to be definite when you have to accommodate generators, respirators, is it quadriplegic, paraplegic, etc. so we may find out more about it, but looks like a privately funded research.

LR – Sounds like a bit of a worry.

DG – There's quite a spectrum to cover

CB – I didn't completely understand what they were looking at. In the UK, MDA has packaged a set of guidelines for home mods.

LR – It's interesting to look at transport, as there is limited availability

AM – Nobody's talking together to say 'this is where transport ends' and nobody's doing anything about it. Consumers don't care who funds it, they just need to organize it thru a one-stop-shop, but it's not happening. What do we do for those gaps – and overlaps – that's what is mind-boggling. Some places have empty slots and others are totally underserved.

DG – Community transport is not interested in facilitating all needs.

MK – Community transport is somewhat marginalized...

AM – Please send me a few points you'd like to include.

CB – Aging in place has a risk associated with it.

MK – If aging in place is a funded strategy, then there should be measures in place to deal with that.

LR – Or it will wind up like the mental health system...

CB – There is some agreement around needing systems and needing resources. Some of what is in place at present (ie Red Cross) are dependent on volunteers.

AM – there are models overseas to address these issues

CB – We have a society that values independent living and autonomy

DG – Our society is not one of linked families – It's spreading, even in communities where traditionally family are cared for.

CB – Also families are becoming more geographically disparate.

LR – We can't resolve it all..

CB – A functional cheap transport system would resolve these issues.

AM – What will happen to home mods program?

CB – Not sure, there are hidden issues in the Henry Report. Probably try to cap/user pays/means testing or limit funding, or use rebates or

tax triggers.

AM – Did you guys see that article on HACC split? Do you want me to forward that?

CB – Yes please [pls note web links attached to tabled documents pdf for this meeting]

AM – Can you forward to the group?

CB – yes.

Meeting closed at 16:00

## Other business

### ***Members of Advisory Committee leaving***

Maj Britt Engelhardt has moved to another part of ADHC, and will no longer be involved in the Advisory Committee. She has informed HM Info and asked to be taken off correspondence lists.

### ***Next Advisory Committee Meeting***

The venue for the next meeting is will be held on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at the Faculty of The Built Environment, University of NSW.