



Australia's
Global
University

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse

Never Stand Still

Built Environment

Newsletter

Edition 54 | 28th December 2019



From the Editor

Welcome to the fourth instalment of the HMinfo Newsletter for 2019.

Since our October newsletter, the Clearinghouse team has produced three updates of older publications, relevant to home modifications. The first edition of the Consumer Factsheet: Arranging Home Modifications was published in 2014 and it has been a popular document for people with disability and older people who need information on home modifications. The second edition has updated procedures and contact details and will certainly be a useful roadmap for NDIS and Aged Care participants and their carers.

Following the Evidence-Based Practice Review: Designing home environments for people who experience problems with cognition and who display aggressive or self-injurious behaviour, published earlier this year, two updated publications, addressed to OTs and consumers were published in December. The Consumer Factsheet: Designing home environments for people who experience problems with cognition and who display aggressive or self-injurious behaviour and the respective Industry Factsheet give practical advice and solutions for common issues that carers of people with challenging behaviours face in the home. The subjects discussed originated from questions made by OTs directly to the HMinfo team or within the HMinfo OT Forum.

The latest addition to our forums is the Built Environment Industry Professionals Forum. HMinfo hosts a successful OT Forum since 2003 and wants to ride on the same level of success by replicating a forum for built environment professionals. Creating an inclusive built environment, is challenging, and industry professionals will face substantial change in the next twenty years if it is to meet the increasing demands for an Ageing Population, increasing demand from the NDIS whilst creating less stigmatising, affordable and sustainable design outcomes that build reputation and demonstrate best practices in this field.

Some of the topics of the new HMinfo forum could include:

- Legislation changes and/or impact;
- Funding changes and/or impact on managing/growing your business and getting paid eg. MyAged Care and NDIS funding;
- Royal Commissions ie. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and/or Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability;
- Licences & permits, eg. Australian Business Licence and Information Service (ABLIS);
- Working with Occupational Therapists and people with disabilities;
- Industry safety issues and environmental concerns, eg. managing dust, asbestos and the like see some state-specific WHS requirements relevant to the construction industry;

- Product issues and product innovations that create better cheaper outcomes
- Other Industry issues and "accessible product and design" exchanges.

Please join us and invite others by passing on this message to anyone who you think could contribute and/or benefit.

<https://www.homemods.info/forums/built-environment-industry-professionals>

Before closing the last newsletter for this year, we would like to thank all of the HMinfo Advisory Committee members who actively support the Clearinghouse by investing their precious time and sharing their experience. We would also like to thank all of our registered users and the readers of our publications for your feedback and your kind support.

HMinfo Research

- [Consumer Factsheet: Designing home environments for people who experience problems with cognition and who display aggressive or self- injurious behaviour, Ed. 2](#)

[Consumer Factsheet: Designing home environments for people who experience problems with cognition and who display aggressive or self- injurious behaviour, Ed. 2](#)

This Consumer Factsheet gives information about elements and systems that can be used to make a home safer and more comfortable for people with cognitive impairments, presenting self-injurious or aggressive behaviour and their family members or carers.

- [Industry Factsheet: Designing home environments for people with problems with cognition who display aggressive or self-injurious behaviour, Ed. 2](#)

The information in this factsheet is intended to assist industry professionals to better understand the value of specialised spatial, material, lighting, egress and other home modification interventions designed to improve the safety and dignity of people with self-injurious and/or aggressive behaviour. By reducing the risk of injury, minimising neighbourhood disturbances and reducing maintenance and repair costs associated with heavy or unusual activity patterns, the wellbeing of residents and their community can be improved.

- [Consumer Factsheet: Arranging Home Modifications, Ed. 2](#)

This factsheet assists consumers navigate their way to arranging home modifications in Australia.

Home Modification Resources

Book review - Urban Environments for healthy ageing. A global perspective.

The book focuses on healthy ageing within high-density environments. A socio-ecological lens is used to discuss how urban environments impact ageing and wellbeing. Contributions in this edited volume stem

from the inaugural International Ageing Urbanism Colloquium, 26-27 October 2017, at the University of Technology and Design of Singapore.

The content is divided into three thematic parts: housing, mobility and transportation and lastly urban planning and design.

Chapter authors highlight innovations and the chapter structure itself marries this well with practice stories that outline successive innovations but often a dearth of incentives. The disconnect between health and urban planning is a recurring theme and one of the strong recommendations is for better communication and coordination between governmental departments involved in health and construction. The focus on better managing more supportive built environments underlines the need to change how we currently think and do housing, transportation and design. The chapters in the book robustly discuss evidence-based research findings and/or clearly illustrate the experience and outcomes of urban planning decision making on the health trajectories of older people across multiple discipline areas.

The book provides the reader with a fresh, but comprehensive overview of urban design issues for a hyper-ageing society. It provides a sound understanding of the issues and makes innovations both comprehensible and engaging.

Lane, A. P. (Ed.). Urban Environments for healthy ageing. A global perspective. (2019). Routledge.

Journal paper review - Housing Implications of Individual Budget Home Care Models for Older Renters: An Australian Case Study

This interesting paper examines the emotional and financial housing stress of older Australians, living in rental properties. It is based on one-to-one detailed interviews with 26 people, living in rented properties and who were either receiving a home care package, or had recently been assessed as being eligible for a package.

The study revealed that older Australians who live in rented properties experience uncertainty and stress. They often feel they cannot effectively communicate with their landlords, who often are slow or negative to their requests for needed home modifications. Additionally, tenants fear of the potential need to move out of their house, due to the cost of the move itself, but also because they don't want to lose their friends, neighbours and their community services.

Even though the sample of the study is relatively small, it provides a useful insight into older people's needs and desire to live in a stable and comfortable home environment.

Victoria Cornell (2019) Housing Implications of Individual Budget Home Care Models for Older Renters: An Australian Case Study, *Journal of Housing For the Elderly*, 33:1, 16-30, DOI: [10.1080/02763893.2018.1451798](https://doi.org/10.1080/02763893.2018.1451798)

Events

Seminars

Specialist Disability Accommodation 2020 National Seminar Series

Developing and Managing SDA

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will soon be spending more than \$22 Billion per annum on services for over 460,000 people with disability across Australia. The NDIS is creating huge opportunities (and challenges) for housing development.

This includes but extends beyond the development of an additional 14,000 places of the NDIS funded Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA).

Seminar attendees will be provided with information about the NDIS housing landscape, SDA and development pathways as well as key issues and trends from skilled practitioners.

Dates

Wed 5 Feb 2020 8:30 AM - Thu 28 May 2020 4:30 PM

Location

Perth 5 Feb | Darwin 7 Feb | Sydney 18th Mar | Brisbane 20 Mar | Melbourne 31st Mar | Hobart 2 Apr | Adelaide 12 May | Canberra 15th May | Cairns 28th May

Link

HMinfo Team



Professor Catherine Bridge - Director
Hamish MacLennan - Adjunct Associate Professor
Konstantina Vasilakopoulou - Research Associate
Vincent D'cruz - Research Program Administrator
Helmut Hoss - Website Developer

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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