



## Advisory Committee Minutes

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

**4th June 2009**

**At 2.00 p.m.**

**Room 1010, West Wing**

**The Faculty of the Built Environment**

**University of NSW**

#### **Present**

A/Professor Catherine Bridge (HMInformation Clearinghouse, Centre for Health Assets Australasia, the University of New South Wales)

Robyn Chapman (Independent Living Centre)

Nina Darling (DADHC)

Susan Dinley (DVA)

David Gonzales (Lifetime Care and Support Authority)

Nicholas Loder (NSW Department of Housing)

Ian Maxwell (Wesley Mission Australia)

Peter Phibbs (University of Western Sydney)

#### **Apologies**

Anne-Marie Elias (Council on the Ageing)

Mark Ellis (Scope Access)

Sandi Lightfoot Collins (NSW Health Department)

Amelia Starr (Disability Council of NSW)

Claudia Kennedy (DADHC)

Stacey Shepherd-Smith and Shalla Thomas (NSW HMMS)

Ruth Robinson (PDCA NSW)

Note: NSW Council on Social Services yet to nominate delegate

#### **Chair**

A/Prof. Catherine Bridge (HMInfo, CHAA, UNSW)

#### **Note taker**

George Martin (HMInfo)

**1. Welcome, introduction & apologies**

Meeting opened at 2.00 p.m. Apologies were noted as listed above.

**2. Ratification of minutes of last meeting**

Minutes were accepted.

**3. Clearinghouse Updates****Website**

- Webstats report for the period march 12 to June 1 2009 was tabled. In summary
  - The total number of page views to date is 340,598 from 82,820 visitors.
  - Approximately 12,854 of these were in this period. Returning visitors have risen to 1,155.
  - By country, Australia represented 66.88% of visitors followed by the U.S (13.54%), UK (4.85%) and New Zealand (2.07%).
  - By region, NSW represented the most (33.89%), followed by Victoria (13.04%), Queensland (11.09%) and Western Australia (4.02%).
- Site availability in other languages
  - HMinfo does not have capacity to provide translations into other languages, however online translations (especially "google translate" into Spanish and Arabic) is improving and is adequate.
- User demographics
  - In response to concerns regarding attracting a younger viewership to the website, Katy advised that the Clearinghouse now has a Facebook page and a 'youtube' video to be launched soon (see "social networking" section below)
- MobilePhone access
  - It was noted that there are new browsers to be released soon (e.g google chrome on phones). Webstats shows the website is attracting viewers on their phones. Katy advised that the Clearinghouse is in the process of upgrading the DRUPAL format, to allow a more intuitive search algorithm.
- New Web Contract
  - Katy explained that HMinfo has moved to a virtual server system, which will allow greater reliability and reduce shut-down times. A copy of the contract is available from Katy. Katy explained that DRUPAL allows us greater ease of access and maintenance by HMinfo staff and simplifies the customising of the website for individual users.

- Social Networking as a way to disseminate information
  - HMinfo now has a presence on Youtube and Facebook.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ew793CAkFwU>
  - The video has not launched yet but has already attracted some 118 visits. There was strong agreement that social networking such as this is effective and important in raising awareness especially amongst younger people/professionals.

#### 4. Clearinghouse publications

- ISBS-ISSN's

ISSNs/ISBNs are required for DEST to recognise academic publications. Without this recognition they aren't recorded by the university and have no academic integrity. Katy advised that the procedure for acquiring ISSN's needs to be finalised.

The format for future Clearinghouse publications was discussed;

- There will be one ISSN for consumer/industry factsheets, one for occasional papers etc. Each will have their own ISSN and each individual issue will have its own ISBN. The procedure for acquiring ISSN's/ISBNs was explained.

- Format and Layout

We are keeping the same format and layout: Simple, easy to read and colour coded.

- New Publications

1. *Colours and Older people with visual impairments – Industry Factsheet and Checklist.*

In addition it was reported that the Clearinghouse has been invited to participate in a research project related to the UNSW bionic eye project.

2. *Hot topic: Stairs Summary Bulletin.*

Stairs are a relevant issue because of the current mismatch between consumer needs and stair design (e.g tread size). There are also difficulties matching general practice to unique cases. In addition, Katy is in preliminary discussions with media groups at UNSW to develop video material on this issue for release onto youtube.

#### 5. Events and Training

There are several upcoming events:

1. *2009 NSW Falls Prevention Network Meeting, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009, UNSW.*

The HMinfo presentation will focus on non-slip flooring and grabrails, and will include a screening of the "Off the rails" youtube video. Katy is considering the development of a kit to show different types of tiling and the benefits of colour contrast.

2. *Design and Health 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress & Exhibition.*

HMinfo not attending, but is sending a poster (by L.Millikan) with CHAA director, Jane Carthey.

3. *Disability Studies Conference 2009, Towards A National Disability Studies Agenda, 26-27 June 2009 UNSW.*

We will also be sending a poster to this conference.

4. *19<sup>th</sup> IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics Paris, France 5-9<sup>th</sup> July 2009*

Katy is attending and will be networking with UK academics, particularly concerning the smart house project.

5. *Australian Social Policy Conference 2009- An inclusive society; Practitioners & possibilities, 8-10 July UNSW, Sydney, Australia.*
6. *ACHSE 2009 national congress- Building our Healthcare Systems around People and their Needs in partnership with the Centre for Health Assets Australasia (CHAA) Gold Coast, 4-7<sup>th</sup> August 2009.*

Yong Jung will be attending this event and present his poster.

7. *Asia pacific Network of Housing and Australasian Housing Researchers Conference. Sydney, Australia, 5-7 August 2009.*

We have a paper with Andrew Jones, setting an agenda for older persons housing, similar to that already presented to the Housing Minister.

## 6. In the Media

- **Uniken story + podcast**

Katy was interviewed by Peter Trute. The article is on page 5 of the current issue of Uniken (issue 51).

- **Life Matters interview**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2009 Katy was interviewed on the ABC Radio Life Matters program about the role of the family home and environment in successful ageing (podcast available to be downloaded from <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lifematters/stories/2009/2569066.htm>)

## 7. Presentations

- **Unicon panel on web ecology, April 24 2009.**

Katy sat on a panel at the UNISCON conference at UWS; the conference focussed on the future of web ecology as a conceptual framework for web based information dissemination. Eg, spam in the world consumes energy equivalent to 31 million cars annually, web ecology is more relevant to sustainability than generally perceived.

- **AHURI Ministerial Roundtable**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, Katy met with the Housing Minister Tanya Plibersek to discuss housing in the context of an ageing population. The slides are available from the AHURI website.

- **AHURI Research Seminar an event in association with Housing NSW**

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, Katy presented on the costs and benefits of housing as the "home base" for older people.

## 8. Clearinghouse Projects

- **My Virtual Home Project**

Following meetings with Sandi Lightfoot regarding participation by occupational therapists from her team there is now the option to move forward with this project. The Clearinghouse now has the updated software required to upload the project. Dr Bridge needs to meet with relevant UNSW staff to progress this project.

- **Off the Rails; A/V Project**

Copies of this dvd are available from HMInfo or on youtube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ew793CAkFwU>. We plan to host a launch for the video, probably at UNSW.

It was agreed that it would be prudent to incorporate the video launch into a more comprehensive presentation to raise awareness of the work undertaken at the Clearinghouse.

- **Reverse Mortgages, AHURI**

Progress: The analysis phase of the project is being undertaken; due to circumstances beyond control, the timeline for this has been interrupted.

Peter Phibbs reported that there is generally a favourable perception of reverse mortgages amongst the elderly. There is some anxiety amongst some, particularly regarding fixed interest rates and the trustworthiness of brokers.

It was also noted that the DVA provides loans against seniors' mortgages to facilitate home modification.

- **Age Specific housing markets and housing and care for low to moderate income older people**

This project is funded by an AHURI grant over the next 18 months. Peter Phibbs will be involved.

- **Informal care across the Asia Pacific region**

Katy is managing this project which is based at Tokyo University alongside 6 other countries (Japan, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand and Nepal). It will be one of the subjects of Katy's presentation at IAGG in Paris.

## 9. Other business

- **MOU with Home Modification and Maintenance State Council and ILC**

ILC - This has been received, signed and logged with the GMO. A copy has to be sent to DADHC.  
HMMS – This is in progress.

- **Home Maintenance and Modification Services state Council Technical manual**

This has been published and HMInfo received a copy. It will be reviewed on an annual basis. Ian Maxwell noted the positive response the manual has received in the industry. Acknowledging its limited use to OTs, he suggested that the Clearinghouse might

consider disseminating information more relevant to them.

- **WorkCover and OTs Meeting**

Susan Dinley requested that when Leanne Larson returns to work she would like another meeting to be held specifically concerning this issue.

- **Fund transfers from University of Sydney**

HMinfo has received a transaction list from USyd showing \$42,000 withheld. Dr Bridge will be working with UNSW to recoup that amount.

- **Home and Community care Non-recurrent funding & staff contracts 2009**

Katy reported that the centre is receiving funding for 4 projects; 1 related to planning and the other 3 with an economic focus. The 3 “economics papers” will be:

1. A cost-benefit analysis of lifts v. ramps;
2. An investigation at how environmental modifications can substitute waged care, and;
3. An analysis of elderly and disabled access within aboriginal communities.

These projects are likely to be presented as Occasional Papers.

## Correspondence

- OT Australia is willing to re-establish a focus group for environmental needs in the home.
- Letter from NSW Health supporting future linkages with the Clearinghouse.
- Nina noted that a new Financial Management Service at DADHC will be part of a new contract management system. As HMinfo is a non-reporting centre, this is likely to be beneficial.
- Re: Senate review of access standards, there is yet to be an outcome.

## Miscellaneous

- Susan Dinley announced that DVA will be re-tendering soon, and that this will be advertised over the next few months.
- Katy announced that Victoria moving towards regulation of universal homes. Landcom has released guidelines for Universal Designs.
- Noted during the meeting was the difficulty of keeping track of OT training and educational standards. Katy remarked that this is an issue to which there is- to date- no answer.

## Next Advisory Committee Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at the level 1 meeting room, at the Faculty of Built Environment, UNSW. Staff from the HMinfo Clearinghouse will be in contact with committee members in advance of that date.

## Close

