Home Modification Information Clearinghouse

Newsletter

Edition 58 | 12th November 2020

Editor's Note

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

During the last few months, members of the Enabling Built Environments Program (EBEP) and HMinfo in UNSW have been investigating issues relevant to the accessibility of electronic resources for people with disabilities. Online content is often inaccessible to people with disabilities which impacts both consumers and businesses. Kim Andersen, Helmut Hoss and Prof. C. Bridge have authored two publications with evaluations of websites and documents' accessibility properties and two guides on how to develop accessible websites and documents. The publications are available for free on the HMinfo website and will become valuable tools for providers who want to provide accessible online resources to their clients.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we have now concluded an evidence-based review on self-assessment tools for the person-environment fit, which is currently under peer review and will soon be available through the HMinfo website. A relevant consumer factsheet, providing options of checklists assisting older people to assess the safety of their homes and take the appropriate measures to reduce hazards, has also been developed.

We would also like to notify you about a new Standard. AS/NZS 2785:2020 - Suspended ceilings - Design and installation*sets out the minimum requirements for the design, construction, installation, maintenance, and testing of internal and external non-trafficable suspended ceiling systems of dry construction with suspension systems attached to a supporting structure (Source: SAI Global).* Use of suspended ceilings might have an impact on home modifications and especially on the installation of aids that need to be attached to bearing walls.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention on the survey relevant to the second review of the Premises Standards 2010. Please follow this link to get all the necessary information and contribute to the Standard's update.

Please remember to send us your feedback about our website and suggestions for new publications. Keep safe!

NEW HMinfo RESOURCES

PDF Accessibility Report

This report aims to highlight the accessibility of the documents found on four different organisations' websites. The purpose of this is to highlight the accessibility issues found in PDFs hosted on the internet and what these issues mean for users with disabilities. This report is useful for both document creators and managers who wish to better understand the components of an accessible PDF and how to assess their own document creation processes.
Download this resource from the HMinfo website

Web Accessibility Audit

Web accessibility is aimed at allowing access for all on the internet. This means following the relevant guidelines and standards to ensure that barriers are not placed in front of potential users. The aim of this audit is to evaluate the websites of four different organisations in terms of web accessibility. This audit is then used to highlight common errors with respect to web accessibility and what these may mean for users.
Download this resource from the HMinfo website

Web Accessibility Guide

Web accessibility is governed by standards and best practice methods that aim to provide access to all potential users of a website. These standards are often not requirements for website design and are often ignored. This guide aims to provide a useful tool to allow web designers and owners to evaluate their websites for accessibility and explains many of the common pitfalls with respect to web accessibility. The guide makes use of both the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines and the Usability Guidelines to inform best practice and allow users to make informed choices regarding their own particular needs.
Download this resource from the HMinfo website

Writing Accessible PDFs Using Word

This guide to writing accessible PDFs in Microsoft Word is provided to give users the tools to make their documents accessible to a wider audience. It is intended for anyone who creates PDF documents for public use, using Microsoft Word as the document creator and who is familiar with that software. While the focus is on Microsoft Word the principles outlined in the guide may be applied to other document creation software at the users discretion.
Download this resource from the HMinfo website

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

Other RESOURCES

Effect of Home Modification Interventions on the Participation of Community-Dwelling Adults With Health Conditions: A Systematic Review

Stark, S.; Keglovits, M., Arbesman, M., Lieberman, D. (2017). Effect of Home Modification Interventions on the Participation of Community-Dwelling Adults With Health Conditions: A Systematic Review. American Journal of Occupational Therapy, February 2017, Vol. 71, 7102290010.
https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2017.018887

This systematic review by Stark et al. investigates the effect of home modifications on the participation of adults and older adults in the home and the community. The review included 36 articles written after 1990. The study provides evidence that home modifications can improve functional performance, reduce the risk of falls while the outcomes for both care recipients with dementia and their caregivers were improved. In order for home modifications to be effective, the authors suggest a comprehensive process, comprising assessment of the functional abilities of the person and of the home environment, support for the implementation of the prescribed modifications and training of the client and/or caregiver on how to use the home modifications and to perform daily activities.

View this resource on your browser

What housing features should inform the development of housing solutions for adults with neurological disability?: A systematic review of the literature

Wright, C.J., Zeeman, H., Kendall, E., Whitty, J.A. (2017). What housing features should inform the development of housing solutions for adults with neurological disability?: A systematic review of the literature. Health & Place, Volume 46, July 2017, Pages 234-248

This systematic review presents information on the housing solutions for people with complex neurological conditions. 26 studies conducted after 2003 were included in the review. Safety and accessibility were the most important parameters, however,

198 more features were identified. Most of the features (142) are relevant to the design of the home, 12 are relevant to location, while 54 are relevant to the From the 198 features, 142 related to housing design (i.e., internal or external characteristics of the dwelling and its land), 12 related to the dwelling's location (i.e., its proximity to available resources), and 54 related to the physical, social, and economic conditions of the area. This study summarizes findings that can provide preliminary guiding principles for housing design and development for people with complex neurological conditions.

View this resource on your browser

Area-Level Associations between Built Environment Characteristics and Disability Prevalence in Australia: An Ecological Analysis.

Fortune, N., Singh,A., Badland,H., Stancliffe R.J., Llewellyn, G. (2020). Area-Level Associations between Built Environment Characteristics and Disability Prevalence in Australia: An Ecological Analysis. Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 2020, 17(21), 7844; https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17217844

Studies have shown that people with disability generally live in more socially disadvantaged areas than the rest of the population. This study provides an ecological analysis, aiming to identify and describe spatial associations between disability and aspects of local area liveability in Australia. Some of the findings highlight the need for improving access to health-enhancing neighborhood infrastructures, e.g. increasing neighborhood walkability and local availability of public transport and for increasing local access to public open space, physical activity and recreation destinations, and healthier food options. These findings can inform planning process, and reduce inequalities.

View this resource on your browser

EVENTS

Effective Home Care Package Design

The Australian Government announced improved payment arrangements for Home Care Packages in the 2019-20 Budget. Under this measure, home care providers will be paid in arrears and for actual services delivered.

From September 2021 Home Care Providers will only be paid by Government for services delivered. This is a fundamental shift from the current home care package model and requires providers to "get their skates on" and start planning for the future.

Attendance at this contemporary workshop will provide attendees with a different way of thinking about designing their services and encourage innovation.

Why Should I Attend?

- If you are concerned about your growing level of unspent funds

- If you are concerned about consumers leaving your service and switching to other providers
- If you want to offer a consumer-directed model whilst maintaining your financial sustainability

The webinar will provide you with an overview of what other providers are doing and some of the creative options that are available to consumers. There will be an emphasis on the importance of a wellness and health promotion approach to care models.

Link

Aged Care Reform - Strategising for 2021

2020 has been the most challenging year yet for the aged care sector. The pressure of the ongoing Royal Commission, the challenges of transitioning to the Single Aged Care Quality Standards and the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic have had a compounding effect on providers, leaving many stretched, workforce challenged and financially vulnerable.

Attend to learn:

- Reviewing reform to date and unpacking future directions of the reform agenda
- Analysing Counsels Assisting's proposals and calculating the likely recommendations of the Royal Commission into Quality in Aged Care
- Exploring opportunities to fund the aged care system of the future
- Identifying opportunities to attract, strengthen & grow the aged care workforce

Join experts and like-minded peers at the Aged Care Reform: Strategising for 2020 online conference, taking place on 25th & 26th November 2020. This event has been created for the sector alongside COTA & ACSA and will address the biggest questions that aged care providers have to answer as we move into the new year.

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