



Australia's
Global
University

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse

Never Stand Still

Built Environment

Newsletter

Edition 53 | 22nd October 2019



From the Editor

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

Since the previous HMinfo newsletter, I had the opportunity to travel to the US and Europe in June, and to meet important prominent academics that undertake research in a similar field to that of the HMinfo Clearinghouse. I visited the Centre for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access (IDEA), at the University of Buffalo in the US. IDEA is a recognized centre of excellence committed to creating and implementing inclusive design policies, practices, environments, and products. I also delivered a talk at the University of Wisconsin, in Milwaukee US about accessibility and inclusivity.

In July I visited the PEARL (Person-Environment-Activity Research Laboratory) in UCL, London. PEARL, led by Prof Nick Tyler, is a facility designed to explore the ways in which people interact with their environment. In PEARL, life-sized, controlled condition environments can be replicated, and people's interactions and experiences can be examined. I was impressed by the laboratories I visited, and looking forward for to potential projects and collaborations.

Back to the HMinfo research, our next publications will be based on the recently published Evidence Based Practice Review: Designing home environments for people who experience problems with cognition and who display aggressive or self- injurious behaviour. Ed. 2. The upcoming Consumer and Industry Factsheets, will provide information about home modifications for people with challenging behaviours, and they will be addressed to consumers and professionals (OTs and building professionals) respectively. You will find the new HMinfo publications in the Resources section of our website in a few days.

With regards to another project, EBEP is currently seeking volunteers to participate in a national research study. The Project named "ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES in the HOME" , aims to gather information about the impacts of new and emerging assistive technologies (AT) in the home, and to improve the quality of life of AT users. Our funder, the Australian Housing Urban Research Institute, is seeking information to provide relevant policy development. You can get more information on the study [here](#).

Finally, I would like to remind you of our new 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>

Home Modification Resources

Journal paper review - Psychometric properties of home accessibility assessment tools: A systematic review, by Alexandre Patry, Claude Vincent, Christian Duval, and Emmanuelle Careau

Home modifications is an important and necessary measure for enabling independence and enhancing wellbeing for older people and people with disability in their own homes. Funding for home modifications is available in many countries around the world, however, the amount of money provided is rarely enough for what each individual really needs. Qualified professionals, usually occupational therapists, undertake the difficult task to assess the needs of the person and the home environment characteristics and set priorities on which modifications should be carried out. The use of reliable and valid home assessment tools ensures that the right solutions will be chosen and that assessments are objective and comparable.

The article "Psychometric properties of home accessibility assessment tools: A systematic review" by authors Alexandre Patry, Claude Vincent, Christian Duval, and Emmanuelle Careau, is a review of some of the best-known home assessment tools and it investigates the evidence of their psychometric properties, to better guide OTs in choosing the right tool. The results of the review showed that the I-HoPE tool is the most relevant assessment as it takes into account many relevant parameters, such as client's rating of performance, satisfaction and severity of environmental barriers, etc. The Housing Enabler observation grid is the assessment that was considered the most complete tool supporting adaptation. Finally, the CASPAR self-report observation grid is an assessment that could be more associated with the universal accessibility concept.

However, it needs to be noted that none of the tools studied by the authors present sufficient scientific evidence of their validity and reliability.

Patry, A., Vincent, C., Duval, C., Careau, E. (2019). Psychometric properties of home accessibility assessment tools: A systematic review. *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy* 2019, Vol. 86(3) 172-

184. Available at: https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0008417418824731?url_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr_id=ori:rid:crossref.org&rfr_dat=cr_pub%3dpubmed

Journal paper review - Participation in Everyday Life Before and After a Housing Adaptation, by Bjorg Thordardottir, Agneta Malmgren Fange, Carlos Chiatti, and Lisa Ekstam

This study investigates the experiences of performance and engagement in everyday life, such as maintaining valuable relationships and roles and remaining active with the opportunity to socialize outside the home, after housing adaptation (modification). The study included participants of various ages and types of health issues and the findings showed that, in the cases where home modifications significantly improved the performance for which they were required, the participation of people in community life also improved. The authors also report that the study showed that house adaptations can contribute to increased self-confidence and motivation to engage with others and helped to maintain dignity. The issues that some participants of the study faced were related with their declining health, which made the house adaptations inadequate after a short period of time, while others received bad quality or insufficient modifications. These issues show, according to the authors, that the assessments of the needs of the people, as well as of their home environment, were inadequate or incomprehensive.

Björg Thordardottir, Agneta Malmgren Fänge, Carlos Chiatti & Lisa Ekstam (2019) Participation in Everyday Life Before and After a Housing Adaptation, *Journal of Housing For the Elderly*, 33:1, 41-55, DOI: 10.1080/02763893.2018.1451800. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02763893.2018.1451800>

Article review - How Ancient Cities Become Accessible Cities, by Niall Patrick Walsh in Archdaily

People with disabilities face numerous challenges when visiting public spaces, even in the most contemporary cities. Things get even more difficult when they need to travel around historic cities, the designers of which definitely didn't consider inclusivity.

This article by Niall P. Walsh in Archdaily showcases historic cities that managed to be accessible, without compromising their character.

Web Report - AIHW Report on Disability in Australia

The new Web Report of Australian Institute of Health and Well-fare (AIHW) was published in September 2019. It shows that some people with disability face challenges routinely and actively participating in everyday life areas (such as employment) and are more likely to experience poor health, discrimination and violence. You can access the full report [here](#).

Events

Seminar

Home Care Seminar for New Staff and Providers

This workshop is designed for those who may be new to the Home Care sector in Australia. The target audience is those working in aged care who want to understand the following:

- The legislation that underpins the Home Care Package and CHSP programmes;
- The necessary business model for financial viability;
- What governance systems are required;
- How to meet the Aged Care Quality Standards;
- Key Indicators for success;
- Human Resource issues - case loads, care planning, staff supervision and
- Consumer engagement strategies.

All attendees will receive a USB with extensive resources to support them in the workplace. Our seminars and workshops are designed so that the learnings can be easily transferred into the workplace. Industry experts will provide insights to assist managers and potential new providers to understand the current environment and future opportunities.

Date: Thursday 24 Oct 2019, 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Portside Conference Centre, 207 Kent St, Sydney NSW 2000

[Link](#)

Congress

LASA National Congress 2019

LASA National Congress is the largest age services event in the southern hemisphere. It is the place where leading edge thinkers and providers meet to challenge their assumptions and open their horizons to new ideas and approaches.

LASA National Congress is a place to come and 'work on the business', and to 'do business', meet colleagues, suppliers, and advisors as well as key policy and decision-makers. Most importantly, it's the place to make new connections that will ensure you are ready for a Better Ageing Future.

LASA's National Congress 2019 Better Ageing Futures - It's in our hands will have a sharp focus on how our industry can lead and drive the transformation of age services, from an aged care mindset to a truly person-centred industry, supporting Australians to age well.

Dates:

Sun 27 Oct 2019 - Tue 29 Oct 2019

Sun 27: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Mon 28: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Tue 29: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: The Adelaide Convention Centre

[Link](#)

HMinfo Team



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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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