



## Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting of the HMinfo Advisory Committee

5 December 2019

At 3.00 p.m.

Room 4035, L4, Red Centre West Wing, BE Faculty, UNSW

### Welcome, Introduction, Attendance & Apologies

Professor Catherine Bridge opened the meeting at 3.00pm.

#### Attending in person

Konstantina Vasilakopou (KV)	Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo)
Nicholas Loder (NL)	NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC)
Julian Werrett (JW)	3 Bridges Community
David Clarke (DC)	Paraquad
Annette Hanly (AH)	SCOPE Home Access

#### Attending via Zoom

Angela Peri (AP)	Wesley Mission
Joshua Selvadurai (JS)	Assistive Technology Australia (ATA)
Alice Wilmshurst (AW)	Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN)
Deborah Hammond (DH)	Occupational Therapy Australia (OTA)
Agnieszka Kuna (AK)	Domiciliary Equipment Services South Australia (DES SA)
Susan Dinley (SD)	Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA)
Greg Killeen (GK)	Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA)
Claire O'Moore	Australian Government Department of Health (DOH)

#### Apologies

Karen Appleby (KA)	Council on Ageing NSW (COTA)
Kersi Vajifdar (KV)	National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)
Irene Stein (IS)	National Seniors Australia (NSA)
Donna Dives (DD)	National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)
Steve Pretzel (SP)	Technology for Ageing and Disability WA (TADWA)(MODA)
Anthony Ryan (AR)	Young Care (YC)
Suzette Skobier (SS)	Australian Government Department of Health (DOH)
Lyndal Millikan (LM)	iCare
Frank Riggio (FR)	Odyssey Builders Kuri Kuri Community

#### Chair

Prof Catherine Bridge (CB)	Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (Mino)
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#### Minute Taker

Vincent D'Cruz (VC)	Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo)
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## **Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes from 19 September 2019 Meeting were approved by CB and accepted by both NL and DH.

### Follow up actions completed from 19 September 2019 meeting:

- (i) DH to provide input for mental health literature for Industry Factsheet – Home Modifications for people with aggressive or self-injurious behaviour.
- (ii) VC to send Wash Basin and AHURI AT flyers to AK and DC.
- (iii) LM to send the Fire Report to VC for circulation to members.

### Follow up actions from 5 December 2019 meeting:

- i. AP to share the contact details of Enable NSW SASH Coordinator who could potentially join the Advisory Committee.
- ii. NL suggested that KV indicate publication under review in Home Mods website – Arranging Home Modifications Consumer Factsheet.
- iii. ALL to provide feedback to KV on the Arranging Home Modification Consumer Factsheet.
- iv. GK To provide feedback to KV in relation to appropriate wordings for the Consumer Factsheet to ensure it is also written for people undertaking their own DIY modifications.

## 1. HMinfo Website

## Action

### 1.1. HMinfo Website Report

The HMinfo Website Report was included in the Advisory Committee Member's Package for review and comments. No queries were raised.

### 1.2 HMinfo Website Progress

#### Accessibility/Usability

- Work on hold subject to funding from NDIA or other sources to address higher level accessibility (i.e. easy read and podcasts) and other triple A issues raised by PDCN and Vision Australia.

#### Website Manual Update

- 100% completion by the end of December 2019.

### 1.3 Website Development (Oct to Dec 19)

The web development completed included:

- Real Time Report Progress – creating a progress bar to indicate that a report from HMinfo website is being generated by a user. Slight delay in completion due to priority being given to upgrade both the Liveability and DIY Modify apps.
- Liveability App and DIY Modify App – was disabled in Google Play because it did not comply with required standards. App being rebuilt based on Android version and expected to be completed by Oct 19

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## 2. Publications and Research Activities

## Action

### 2.1 HMinfo Publications

#### **a. Industry Factsheet: Home environment considerations for people with self-injurious and / or aggressive behaviours.**

STATUS: published in November 2019

#### **b. Consumer Factsheet: Home environment considerations for people with self-injurious and / or aggressive behaviours**

STATUS: published in November 2019

#### **c. Consumer Factsheet: Arranging Home Modifications. (includes information from DVA and changes to NDIS)**

STATUS: under review and awaiting feedback

Committee members

#### **d. Summary Bulletin and / or Industry Factsheet on Assistive Technology – Smart Controls**

STATUS: future publication

## **2.2 Grant Applications**

The following grant applications were made in the last quarter:

- a. Information Linkage and Capacity Building (ILC):  
Mainstream Capacity Building (MCB) Grand Round 2019/20
- b. Wellbeing-Aware Visual Environments (WAVE) submitted to the NHMRC ; this is a project in partnership with Vision Science and Medicine at UNSW and which is co-led by the University of Bristol and University College London, UK.

## **3. Events & Training**

**Action**

### **3.1 Conferences / Symposiums / Congress**

- a. Accessible Homes and Communities – 28 Nov Blacktown

NL mentioned that whilst the internal walk space was tight for people movement, there were new inventions being exhibited e.g. triple bicycle, rotatable bed, tiled shower, etc. CB mentioned about the chair with the swinging arm rest and flexible wash basins that were useful for people with disability.

### **3.2 Lectures / Presentations**

- a. Presentation at Meeting of The Minds to Faculty staff
- b. Online lecture to Milwaukee University students on the topic of Home & Building Accessibility Assessment.

**Action**

## **4. Governance & Administration**

### **4.1. Governance**

Submitted CHSP Financial Acquittal for the period July 2018 to June 2019.

### **4.2 HMinfo Annual Report July 2018-June 2019**

Report to be published in January 2020, in website and hard copies.

**Action**

## **5. EBEP Funded Projects**

### **5.1 Australian Research Council's (ARC) LIEF scheme**

Develop methods to produce accessible PDFs and generating functional requirements for triple peer review module.

### **5.2 GWA / Caroma: Under basin clearances for wheelchairs**

Managed to get 6 participants and continuing to recruit. GK mentioned that SCIA through their neuro nerves program can help advertise to their targeted audience about Wash Basin project.

### **5.3 AHURI – AT for ageing and disabled housing**

After conducting focus sessions, next step is to analyse results for report.

## 6. Reports from Committee Members

## Action

### DH

Mentioned briefly about OT Exchange in Melbourne, for which CB had been officially invited as a keynote speaker.

### AW

Informed the committee that PDCN in providing systemic advocacy for people with physical disability in NSW, and has been working with the new NSW Ageing and Disability Commissioner on his review of disability advocacy services in NSW. Now awaiting the release of the Commissioner's report on 19 December 2019.

### GK

Informed the committee that he has a consultation with Commissioner in Sydney in relation to advocacy funding for essential services. Also, will be attending a NDIS pathway to review process and plans.

Provide feedback to KV to incorporate info in the Consumer Factsheet for independent people who may consider DIY modify .

### NL

- LAHC is considering a pilot using a proprietary grated tile system that may be useful in providing access into a hobbled shower enclosure.
- To assist OTs receive timely actions to their emails, LAHC is discussing with FACS as to the availability of Housing team mailboxes (rather than using individual email accounts) would then allow senior Housing staff to monitor progress.
- LAHC considers any MOU between Health and Regions in relation to OT Services now unnecessary, as OTs, both public and private, are to provide professional services to tenants residing in LAHC properties in accordance with the Disability Modifications policy on the FACS internet at:  
<https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/policies/disability-modifications-policy>
- Of special note is the requirement for OTs to provide of the Occupational Therapist Summary of Recommendation sheet with their OT Reports, as per the FACS Disability Modification policy. The summary provides a succinct listing of barriers and recommended solution for FACS and LAHC staff to assess the suitability of the property for those modifications.

### AH

Spoke about Scope Access having a new Board and changes could be expected.

### JW

Mentioned that AJ Grant is a new player in the home modification space for rural areas within NSW. Also highlighted 3 Bridges would be providing quotes for NDIA that would reflect costs and time travelling to rural / regional areas e.g. accommodation, travel and other related expenses.

**DC**

- Said he attended a meeting at ACI to discuss continuity of accommodation solutions and patient flow from acute to community-based care and how the process currently gets backed up. Coordination is essential in ensuring smooth transition from one stage to the next.
- Also mentioned about the need for policies, processes and training for accommodation at Ferguson Lodge to be in line with the transitional requirements. Transitioning of patients from acute care through transitional care to their longer term accommodation requires good coordination with in-home modifications and allocation of units for residents.
- Went on to say that the Disability Royal Commission scope was different from the Aged Care Royal Commission – Disability scope is Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, where Aged Care is Quality and Safety. Previously NDIS Commission had advised ParaQuad that we could only operate with one provider number under a single ABN – we have two one for Paraquad and the other for Bright Sky. This has been resolved and we are now allowed to have two provider numbers under one ABN. Many providers had been affected by this.
- On 1st October, there were new ranges of products included on NDIS under Health Supports program. This welcome change allows participants to access continence, woundcare, nutritional and respiratory products (among others), where they were previously restricted.
- The over 65 petition with 19,500 signatures was presented to Parliament House of Representative and the Senate requesting the NDIS age limit be extended so people with a disability over the age of 65 could access the NDIS.
- Observers fact finding tour to NT identified that due to a lack of accommodation and support services people who had sustained an acute spinal cord injury are often transferred to Brisbane or Adelaide for acute support with little prospect of returning home. This needs to be addressed and will be doing our part to assist.

**AP**

Mentioned that Wesley was successful in getting home modifications approved for NDIA jobs but finding payments to be an issue. Wesley is currently seeking for CHSP funding for clients in Western Sydney as well as Inner West Sydney. Also facilitating 8 student placements from various universities.

Share with  
Committee the  
contact person for  
Enable NSW to  
join the Committee

**AK**

Following a thorough assessment, the SA government had decided to gradually withdraw from delivering DES services to the market by December 2020. This will include a proposed transfer of DES's refurbished and readily available loan equipment service, and the gradual closure of remaining services including home modifications.

DES will be working with staff and other parties during the wind down to ensure changes happen smoothly with minimal disruption to clients. Regarding the Equipment Program in SA, there is some information available on the DES website which will change when the DES changes occur - <https://des.sa.gov.au/funding-programs/dhs-equipment-program>

**Close**

- Professor Catherine Bridge closed the meeting at 4.15pm.

**Next Advisory Committee Meeting 19 March 2020**