



Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting of the HM Information Clearinghouse Advisory Committee

Date: 8 Dec 2009

Commenced: 2.00 p.m.

CHAA Meeting Room

Dean's Meeting Room Level 5, West Wing,

The Faculty of the Built Environment

University of NSW

Present

Amelia Starr
Nicholas Loder
Ruth Robinson
Shalla Thomas
Anne-Marie Elias
Sandi Lightfoot-Collins
David Gonzalez
Richard MacKintosh (Housing NSW, visitor and potential AdvComm member)
Prof Ed Steinfeld (SUNY, visitor)
Ros Barlow

Apologies

Robyn Chapman
Ian Maxwell
Claudia Kennedy
Mark Flynn
Peter Phibbs
Stacey Sheppard-Smith
Steve Malvern
Sue Dinley
Margaret Kay

Chair

A/Professor Catherine Bridge

Note taker

Lyndal Millikan

Notes

Actions

1. Welcome, introduction & apologies

A/Professor Catherine Bridge opened the meeting at 2.00 p.m. Apologies were noted.

Minutes from the last meeting were accepted without alteration.

2. Clearinghouse update

Webstats

The quarterly webstats report was tabled and spoken to, including:

- Evidence of increase in user uptake i.e. 5000 + users in past 2 months (up 500 from previous report); and
- An increase in visits compared to the same period last year (15,781)
- Return visitors – 1217 (registered)
- Increase in access from NZ, USA, UK and Canada, although Australia still majority of user group.
- India still shows up as a heavy user.
- In terms of regions NSW biggest user and every state and territory is a user.
- Internet Explorer still most popular browser and use by mobile phone browsers increasing.

Please see the printed reports for details.

Top 10 downloads

Rank	Publication Title	Reads
1	Consumer Factsheet: - Arranging Home Modifications	2041
2	Dementia design guidelines: Home and Community Care Capital Works Program (2 nd edition)	1883
3	Industry Checklist: designing home environments for people with problems with cognition who display aggressive or self-injurious behaviour	1758
4	Home smoke alarm: Hard wired and battery-powered systems- summary bulletin	1535
5	Gardening at home: Summary bulletin	1448
6	Industry Factsheet: Designing home environments for people with problems with cognition who display aggressive or self-injurious behaviour	1267
7	Evidence Based Research: designing home environments for people with problems with cognition who display aggressive or self-injurious behaviour	1170
8	Thermostatic mixing valves- summary bulletin	1131
9	Understanding Aboriginal Australians for more effective provision of home modification services- summary bulletin	1071
10	Electrical Safety in the Bathroom – Summary Bulletin	918

- Introduced Twitter, Facebook and Youtube community to website.
- DRUPAL upgrade in anticipation of version 7 release which should simplify procedures and fine tune search facility so it is much more intuitive and user friendly.

3. Deliverables

Stairs evidence-based bulletin.

- Stairs publication – most recent and basic version. Will need to do another one on Stairs for users with mobility devices.
- Draft fact sheets – still need to go to peer review

Projects for Home and Community Program

1. Design and Modification and their Impact on Carers and Aged Staff : led by CB, some preliminary work done only.
2. Training and Education of Home Modification Allied Staff: led by LM
 - Lyndal has been participating in the development and review of the NSW HMMS OT FactSheets as part of the OT Reference Group and will continue to do so.
 - Lyndal has been liaising with senior OT staff at 2 x Home Modification services with regard to possible qualitative research activity, using existing information and data to demonstrate both gaps in best practice and strategies to encourage it.
 - Lyndal and Ashley Maher (IT consultant) have been working on a series of online video tutorials to demonstrate using the HMinfo clearinghouse. Once these are completed and have received feedback, it is planned to look at some case studies or similar using this format.
3. Aboriginal Housing Guidelines in relation to adequacy and appropriateness of functional impairment provisions : led by LM –
 - Literature search has been completed and Lyndal is now reviewing the 300 plus articles using the HMinfo Systematic Review protocol as a guide.
4. Cost benefit analysis of ramps versus lifts: led by YMJ –

Summary

Objectives: This paper examines cost and benefit factors expected by installing ramps and lifts. As a comparative study, economic estimates of costs and benefits of two alternatives to stairs will be explored. This publication is expected to serve as a guideline particularly in terms of pricing of home modification equipments for vertical movements.

Methods: A systematic literature review will be conducted for this research. A comprehensive list of electronic databases and other databases available through the University of New South Wales Library covering the topic areas of housing, ageing, design, business and science disciplines are to be searched. They include Home Modification Information Clearinghouse library, Ageline, AMI: Australasian Medical Index / Meditext, MEDLINE, PubMed, Scopus,

ICONDA and other sources of materials such as manufacturer's specifications, and inter-library loan services.

Progress & schedule

- Search frame has been set up
- Database search and retrieval of abstracts are underway
- Literature search by January 2010
- Review and analysis by March 2010
- First draft by April 2010

4. Events & Training

- CB happy to make available what she can in terms of training materials (with respect to copyright) and if there are links to other useful organisations will upload them onto the website.
- International conference on Universal Design in the Asia Pacific was hosted in Kuala Lumpur; it is the most recent conference CB has attended of late. CB will make information from the conference freely available to people. CB brought back books from an Islamic design perspective and Malaysian standards such as the design for squatting toilets, which has been an ongoing issue and it outlines what you need to do to design a squatting toilet and as we have a significant Muslim population this is quite important.

5. Media/Press:

- Book chapter (Ch 28) in Home Mods just published in Curtin, M., Molineux, M & Supyk-Mellson, J (Eds). Occupational Therapy for Physical Dysfunction (6th ed). Elsevier

6. Other Clearinghouse Projects

- The draft Annual Report will be finalised as soon as the Faculty finalises the financial acquittals (which are nearly complete).

7. Other business

General News:

- Anne Marie - Age Friendly Environments Working Group has been working on COTAs pre-budget submission. 'You're Welcome' project – is an independent living centre project and it has run out of funding. It provided free advice and assistance to councils in Western Sydney advising them on accessible design and the built environment. If funding does not come through the nature of the project will change for the pre-budget submission requesting the NSW govt to fund the project to capacity billed with local councils instead. So rather that it be a service available to the councils it would actually be a project that trains up in-councils to run the project on their own.
- CB - waiting to hear about proposed research project in both rural

and regional areas and it would involve Wollongong, Tweed Heads and Dubbo and it is specifically for older people and is about talking with older people about what makes a difference for them.

Wollongong is particularly interesting because they were one of the cities involved in the Health Cities Movement and technically you would expect that that would be better but we do not know. Hopefully some research evidence will be a result of this.

- Amelia - Discussion re: Kirribilli House meeting with Bill Horten and Terese Rein. Top 20 leaders in housing sitting around a table – statement that they all agreed that the industry would be more committed to looking more broadly for adapting universal design in standard housing practice. Aspirational targets for all new housing in Australia and agreed standards to be implemented by 2020 with incremental standards being introduced over the next few years. The critical part of this is that the parliamentary secretary is getting industry to display a leadership role. Working with Peter Ruhe (?) the CEO of Public Housing Australia and we have been drafting a national framework and also a national code that covers both private and social housing. Will look at issues such as how can we develop a social national framework? Industry will commit to minimum standards. Aging demographic is a big push. What skills capacity do we need to build consumers knowledge as well as industry. Deconstruct disability – crosses every social economic background and I think that helps industry understand it.
- LIFE TIME CARE – David spoke on role of LTC; “what we do is that we provide treatment and rehab care to people who have been injured in motor vehicle accidents in Australia. Most important aspect is that people have a place to go to and most of the challenges we face is that the places where the people were living in they can't return to because they are not accessible. They are either discharged in wheel chairs or the bathrooms or kitchens aren't suitable. This is both for spinal cord and brain injury and what we are trying to come up with apart from the way we process things in house we are looking at an overall strategy - a bigger strategy how we can add, source, find, amend housing for people. Transitional housing as well as what is the best way to modify or whether we knock down some rebuilds – dealing with different council areas and dealing with how much money we have got and just planning the push from the hospitals. If housing is inappropriate we find that people deteriorate in their health and it can lead to depression and all sorts of things. It spirals. So for us the challenge is finding appropriate houses for people to be discharged to. Aiming to improve independence. Transitional housing is used for people who need an accessible residence while they sell their house and look for an accessible house they can buy. Looking at the best way to use our resources”
- Inquiry into the Pedestrian Report is being finalised – 80% of elderly people make up fatalities in NSW. Produced recommendations that may be of benefit to LIFE TIME CARE.
- Ruth - Serious wait lists for equipment. Some people waiting up to 18

months – 2 years for a prescribed wheelchair. ENABLE have advertised positions for people to go on their committees for review. Develop a Complaints and Review Process.

- Nick - Northern Division of Housing have put into training all their new units on the ground floor will be universal and all upstairs units which are accessible will be universal – pushing very hard but not sure if got the full corporate approval but doing it regardless.
- Nick – Building lifts; make sure you know which organisation is responsible for the lift.

8. *Advisory Committee Meeting*

The venue for the next meeting is will be held on Thursday the 4th March 2010 at the Faculty of The Built Environment, University of NSW at 2pm.

Meeting closed at 3.50pm.