



The University of Sydney

Faculties of Health Sciences and Architecture

**Home Modification & Maintenance:
Information Clearing House Project**

Advisory Committee Minutes

www.homemods.info

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

25th May 2006 at 3.00 p.m.

Room J003,

**The Faculty of Health Sciences
University of Sydney**

Present

Joe Harrison (Disability Council of NSW)

Ian Maxwell (Orange HMMS)

Stacey Sheppard-Smith (Aged & Community Services Association of
NSW & ACT)

Catherine (Katy) Bridge (Faculty of Health Sciences, University of
Sydney)

Peter Phibbs (Faculty of Architecture, University of Sydney)

Jane Bringolf (Independent Living Centre of NSW)

Steve Malvern (NSW Statewide Home Modification Service)

Robyn Chapman (Physical Disability Council of NSW)

Apologies

Toni Adams (DADHC)

Tony Ciesiolka (NSW Department of Housing)

Rebecca Rodgers (NSW Department of Veterans Affairs)

Danielle Fisher (Health & Community Care Branch, NSW Department
of Health)

Anne Reeve (South Coast Home Modification & Maintenance Service)

Melinda Paterson (HACC Development Officer, Sutherland)

Chair

Catherine (Katy) Bridge (Faculty of Health Sciences, University of
Sydney)

Note taker

Ms Catherine (Katy) Bridge

Notes

1. Welcome, introduction & apologies

Katy opened the meeting at 3.00 p.m. Apologies were noted.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

No one noted error and the group moved to accept the minutes as they stood.

3. Clearinghouse update

Webstats:

Katy provided a summary of the web statistics for the period from Feb 11, 2006 till May 22, 2006. The number of page views to date is 60,597 whilst Total Visitors numbers are 9,011. In the period Feb 06 to May 06 there were 32 countries accounting for 10% of the traffic. Nevertheless 90% of visitors over this period were Australian with NSW accounting for 67%.

HSNet:

Katy provided the theme mock-ups for the new website for the home or splash page and for the general style of other pages provided by Mark Harrison the web graphics designer. Feedback about text density, colour, accessibility and spelling were offered. The Advisory group requested an opportunity to test out the website prior to its official launch at WFOT in July.

Systematic Review Updates

Katy reported that the alerting systems for hearing impaired research bulletin was nearly final and should be posted on the website within the next two weeks. The grabrail orientation consumer and industry factsheets are currently underway and the clearinghouse has been in correspondence with Michala Pitch the author of the wayfinding lighting systematic review to tee up a date for finalisation of this research bulletin as a web based publication.

Hot topic Summaries

Katy referred to the new hot topic summary on legal status of standards within the home and alternative access solutions for ramps. Katy explained this had taken longer than anticipated because advice had been sought from HREOC, ABCB and the Attorney Generals Department. Jane noted that the ILC phone number needed to be altered and supplied a more appropriate alternative. The committee expressed a vote of thanks to Lara Oram for her work in producing this document. Ian and Steve spoke about the new smoke alarm legislation and the actions taken by the HMMS to liaise with local fire agencies and to provide detectors to clients. It was raised that it may be helpful if the clearinghouse put together a hot topic bulletin re the pros and cons of different products. Ian reported that there were advantages and disadvantages of the hardwired versus the unwired alarms, both however had batteries that needed regular replacement. Ian explained that local fire brigades were generally prepared to replace batteries for clients if the HMMS supplied them with a list. This replacement service was free and would be carried out annually on a planned basis not when batteries failed.

Actions

Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting

See attached report

Katy to collate feedback and send to Mark. When graphics and the CMS are linked Katy to organise for all Advisory Committee members to have a look so as to provide feedback.

Katy to notify committee members when these are posted to the web

Stacey to send information gathered by State Council re the new legislation for uploading to the website.

Notes**Events & Training****Actions*****Design and Construction for the Future***

Jane reported that a competency-based, nationally accredited (through VETAB) training program would go ahead on a cost-recovery basis with the support of the MBA and the Building Designers Association. Jane explained that a submission was made to DADHC for training Home Mods Scheme personnel, but the outcome was presently unknown. Jane explained that it was intended that the pilot program start in August with a two-day workshop possibly a Friday/Saturday, content delivery followed by an independent assignment and then a third day and completion of the assignment. The focus is on public access rather than home renovations because that is where the private money is.

Jane to report back at the next meeting

Northcott Workshop

One hour in-service for paediatric and aged care occupational therapists at the Northcott Society on 10th May 2006. The in-service was requested because the Northcott therapists were unable to attend either of the Children's Modifications work shops held last year at the Children's Hospital at Westmead. Six therapists attended the in-service. Most had heard of HMIInfo but had never referred to the website. They found the in-service very useful and commented that HMIInfo was a great service. They showed interest in requesting research on their preferred topics in the future. Digital video capture was experimented prior to the workshop however it was discovered that the clearinghouse needs to purchase some additional software to stream to the web live or via DVD capture.

Katy to cost software and report back at the next meeting

International Conference on Information & Communication Technologies: From Theory to Applications

Katy reported that the two papers given at this conference within the Ageing and Disability Satellite workshop were very well received and that there was considerable international interest in the Clearinghouse. While there Katy also had the opportunity to speak with the Minister for Health and the Minister for Social Planning (they passed a disability discrimination act last year) and co-chaired two sessions on intelligent environments and a round table panel discussion with Dr Abdullah from the University of Florida (one of Bill Mann's smart house colleagues).

Pediatrics Research Seminar

Lara put in an abstract and was accepted to present a paper at the Seminar, which will be held on the Friday 21st July at the Children's Hospital Westmead.

WFOT Congress

Katy reported that she had met with staff from DADHC to plan the launch of the new website. A product demonstration abstract has been written and a keynote for a program stream "focus on dementia and occupation" has been requested. It is currently proposed that the new Dementia principles report be launched here. In addition, as the Major sponsor of the conference there will be a stall with information about HACC services and especially home modifications. The department will be producing consumer leaflets about HACC services and have been in discussion with Sate Council re use of their posters etc. They will also be giving away mousemats at the stall and Minister Della Bosca will be

Notes

launching the new website.

Other Clearinghouse Projects***Dementia design guidelines***

Katy reported that the systematic review and checklist development was complete. Five dementia day centres throughout NSW were put forward as best practice facilities and appointments have been made with them to validate the checklists. It is anticipated that this report will be finalised by the end of June.

Other business***My Virtual Home project***

Katy reported that she had developed a brief proposal and submitted this to DADHC for consideration. The MyVirtual Home involves evaluation of use of a notebook computer with the MyVirtual Home software <www.myvirtualhome.com.au/> for occupational therapists to create 3D drawings to show clients what modification outcomes they can anticipate when work is complete. Data will be obtained from interviews with clients and informal caregivers; service providers and provider cost records. The proposal is predicated on working with the MyVirtual Home people and State Council.

Actions

Katy to notify committee members when this has been approved for public release by DADHC.

Cost-benefit of care in the home for older persons

Katy reported that the positioning paper for this although running behind schedule was now nearly complete. The included literature falls into basically three groups

1. Systematic reviews
2. Simplistic costings based on having a cost for each variable and then multiplying that by the occasion of service, numbers of participants etc. i.e. no formula or model provided results typically reported after statistical significance tests using ANOVA and logistic regression tools.
3. More complex formulaic costings, these basically cover a number of formulas to adjust for effectiveness, risk, market values etc. In addition, a number of models look at relative significance of a range of variables hypothesized as significant. Weights are used in a couple of studies for the same reason.

The other major thing that stands out is the very small number of studies that have considered the impact of accommodation type and tenure in their costing models. Katy will present the findings of the systematic review at the Australasian Housing Researchers Conference 19th – 21st June 2006 in South Australia.

EPPA

Robyn raised the review of the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP Seniors Living) 2004 and organised to have the fax re the forthcoming stakeholder consultation from Gail Connolly A/Executive Director Metropolitan Planning distributed at the meeting for comment. More detailed submissions are being requested on this topic and it was suggested that the Clearinghouse write a letter to the Department of Planning about concerns that accessible housing would not be appropriately regulated on behalf of the Advisory Committee.

Katy & Peter to draft a letter and submit it to planning on the behalf of the Advisory Committee.

Notes

Actions

Next Advisory Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 24th Aug 2006 at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Sydney.

Meeting closed at 5.10 p.m.