



Newsletter

Edition 60 | 31st March 2021

Editor's Note

The HMinfo team welcomes you to the second instalment of the HMinfo Newsletter for 2021.

HMinfo news: Since our previous newsletter at the beginning of the year, we have published a Consumer Factsheet with tools and guides that older people and their family and/or carers can use to identify and fix hazards in the home. Common hazards are floor mats or rugs that are not level, slippery floors, poorly lit spaces, cables under rugs, smoke alarms that have not been checked or replaced for a long time, etc. Slips, falls and home fires are the most common results of these home issues which can have dangerous or even fatal consequences for older people. In the Consumer Factsheet, you will find a variety of tools to choose from, depending on whether you prefer a printed or online version or how much time you can spend completing the questionnaires. However, it is certain that small changes, that you can perform by yourselves in the home, can significantly increase your safety.

For providers: The CHSP providers have recently received the updated [CHSP manual](#), which is available for download from the Department's website. The changes that are relevant to Home Modifications are that providers may help clients cover the cost of chair lifts, two-person step lifts, or wheelchair compatible platform lifts where clinically recommended.

Changes are expected also in the NDIS Complex Home Modification process, as the introduction of a [Building Relationship Manager \(BRM\)](#) was announced in late March. The BRM will primarily support participants who require complex home modifications, with building expertise to facilitate the effective assessment and delivery of modifications, and assistance to ensure required certifications are obtained. More information is expected to be released after May.

Finally, I would like to share an interesting paper ([C. H. Hansen et al. Lancet](#) <https://doi.org/gjq8qk>; 2021), which came to my attention while going through [nature's newsletter](#). The paper includes evidence that older people are at higher risk of getting COVID twice, making vaccinations of this age group crucial.

Please do not forget to send us your feedback on the HMinfo publications and website and to suggest research topics.

Until our next newsletter, keep safe!

NEW HMinfo RESOURCES

Consumer Factsheet: Home safety resources for older people

This factsheet aims to provide tools and checklists that older people and their carers and/or family can use to make their home safer and reduce the chances of injuries.

Common hazards in the home are floor mats or rugs that are not level, slippery floors, poorly lit spaces, cables under rugs, smoke alarms that have not been checked or replaced for a long time, etc. Slips and falls and home fires are the most common results of these home issues which can have dangerous or even fatal consequences for older people.

If you are an older person or caring for an older person and you are concerned about your/their safety in the home, there are checklists that can help you identify hazardous elements and guides with recommendations on how to mitigate the risks.

[Download this resource from the HMinfo website](#)



Recent HMinfo RESOURCES

Evidence-Based Practice Review: Self-assessment tools for person-environment fit

This factsheet aims to explore and determine the existing self-assessment tools or the tools that can be transformed into self-assessment tools of functional ability and the appropriateness of the home. Older people and people with disabilities have decreased functionality in the home compared to people without disabilities. Assessments of their functionality as well as of their home environment can lead to the prescription of home modifications and/or assistive technology that can improve their quality of life in the home. During periods of self-isolation and physical distancing, self-assessment tools can prove valuable for the preservation of the health of the tenants as well as the health professionals.

Systematic research through the HMinfo Library, Google Scholar, and Standard Electronic Databases was performed and 36 publications were retrieved. 8 studies were analysed and included in the review. Only one tool (CASPAR) was found to fulfill all requirements for a self-assessment tool of the person-home fit. A Telehealth version of the tool seems to be more effective in providing the necessary information for Occupational Therapists to be able to prescribe home modifications. A self-assessment tool for the person-home environment fit should be developed and scientifically tested, utilizing existing tools elements.

[Download this resource from the HMinfo website](#)



Occasional research paper: PDF Accessibility Report

This report aims to highlight the accessibility of the documents found on four different organizations' 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](#)



Occasional research paper: 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](#)



Occasional research paper: 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 practices and allow users to make informed choices regarding their own particular needs.

[Download this resource from the HMinfo website](#)



Occasional research paper: 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 user's discretion.

[Download this resource from the HMinfo website](#)



Other RESOURCES

Latent Profiles of Home Environmental Modifications Use in the Women's Health Initiative

Daniel P. Beavers, Edward H. Ip, Stephen R. Rapp & Sally A. Shumaker (2021) Latent Profiles of Home Environmental Modifications Use in the Women's Health Initiative, Physical & Occupational Therapy In Geriatrics, DOI: 10.1080/02703181.2020.1836110

This study investigates the perceived ways by which occupational therapy practices for fall prevention can become more human-centred and increase client engagement. 11 industry participants and 10 older people were recruited and semi-structured interviews were conducted. The study highlights the differences in the interpretations of human-centred practice between professionals, as well as the clients' uncertainty of their role in the design process.

[View this resource on your browser](#)

“I think I could have designed it better, but I didn’t think that it was my place”: a critical review of home modification practices from the perspectives of health and of design

Michael Lo Bianco, Natasha Layton, Gianni Renda & Rachael McDonald (2020) "I think I could have designed it better, but I didn't think that it was my place": a critical review of home modification practices from the perspectives of health and of design, Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology, 15:7, 781-788, DOI: 10.1080/17483107.2020.1749896

This study includes the qualitative investigation of the differences in stakeholder perceptions of control in the fall prevention service provision, as well as suggestions of how person-centred care can be achieved. Semi-structured interviews with professionals and older adults were conducted. The study reveals that the goals of older adults are inadequately represented and clients do not feel they have control over the process. Improvements can be made by the service providers.

[View this resource on your browser](#)

Clients' Perspectives of the Effectiveness of Home Modification Recommendations by Occupational Therapists

Guby Wai Chu Lau, Mong-Lin Yu, Ted Brown & Cassandra Locke (2018) Clients' Perspectives of the Effectiveness of Home Modification Recommendations by Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy In Health Care, 32:3, 230-250, DOI: 10.1080/07380577.2018.1491085

This paper is a qualitative study of the satisfaction of clients from home modifications and the OT assessment process. The Dimension Of Home Measure (DOHM) (Aplin, 2013), the Post-Modification Satisfaction Questionnaire (PMSQ) (Aplin, 2013), a Modification Installation Questionnaire (MIQ) developed by the authors and interviews were conducted for 10 clients. Even though the sample was limited, the participants appeared to be satisfied with the home modifications and found that these increased their independence, safety, and confidence. Most of the clients were happy with the appearance of the home modifications and believed that these would be useful for the present and the future use of the home. The participants also reported being satisfied with the occupational therapists' assessment process.

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EVENTS

ACSA 33rd National Online Summit

ACSA is hosting the 33rd National Summit with the theme 'A New Age for Aged Care'. The Summit will be a fully virtual/ online event.

Dates

Mon 17 May 2021 - Fri 21 May 2021

Fri 21: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Thu 20: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Wed 19: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Tue 18: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Mon 17: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

[Link](#)

4th Universal Design Conference

Centre for Universal Design Australia is hosting the 4th Australian Universal Design Conference. This year the theme is, "Thriving with Universal Design: Everyone, Everywhere, Everyday". The theme provides an opportunity for anyone working with or researching universal design and inclusive practice to contribute to this growing body of work. This conference comes with a promise to broaden delegates' thinking about the many ways universal design can be utilised and applied.

Dates

Mon 17 May 2021 - Tue 18 May 2021

Mon 17: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Tue 18: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

[Link](#)

Governance in Aged Care - Beyond the Royal Commission

Designed in partnership with COTA and ACSA, the Governance in Aged Care: Beyond the Royal Commission conference brings together experts, advocates, and leaders from across Australia to unpack the Final Report and tackle the biggest issues for effective governance.

Dates

Wed 14 Apr 2021 - Thu 15 Apr 2021

Wed 14: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Thu 15: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

[Link](#)

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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