



Advisory Committee Minutes

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Meeting of the HM Information Clearinghouse Advisory Committee

2 June 2011

At 2.00 p.m.

Level 2 Meeting Room

Room 2046, West Wing,

The Faculty of the Built Environment

University of NSW

Present

Nick Loder, Housing NSW

Sandi Lightfoot-Collins, NSWHealth

Leslie Radbourne, Lifetime Care Authority

Rebecca Rogers, Department of Veteran Affairs

Ruth Robinson, Physical Disability Council of NSW

Ian Maxwell, Wesley Mission HMMS

Catherine Bridge, UNSW

Rachel Walls, UNSW

Apologies

Steve Malvern, NSW State Wide Home Modification Service

Shalla Thomas, HMMS State Council

Stacey Sheppard-Smith, HMMS State Council

Ros Barlow, SCOPE

Chair

A/P Catherine Bridge

Note taker

Rachel Walls

Welcome, introduction & apologies

Name opened the meeting at 2.00 p.m. Apologies were noted.

(Minutes from the last meeting are tabled)

Minutes were accepted with modifications to titles by Ian and Nick

CB mentions extra items to add to agenda:

- CaromaDorf MOU,
- Elton's review,
- Access to buildings & access panels/committees

2. Clearinghouse update

(Webstats are tabled)

Webstats by Lyndal Millikan, recently returned from maternity leave.

CB – we are back up in the stats. Reason for drop related to different funding objectives re research. Good because we got to do more significant work, bad because less of the normal work got done. Not as many evidence-based reports on the site, so this affects visitor trends. We are averaging around 4,000 visitors a month and that's good.

NL – you might get more with the access to premises codes

CB – HMInfo is the only service of this kind so lots of users all over the world – US and UK are high users but traffic from over 150 countries.

Ruth – I am not surprised

CB – in terms of Australia – every single state uses the service, NSW is the heaviest user. As there is no advertising for the clearinghouse this is pretty amazing.

In terms of how people are using the site, mobile devices are really starting to rise, possibly therapists looking up info while on-site.

As for publications, a lot of consumers are directly getting information (consumer factsheets)

Ruth – Any reason why WA?

RR – WA has a lot of conversation around consumer focus at the moment.

IM – we had the review into home mods, COAG splits, people are probably wondering about other areas.

CB – WA has a great program on home visiting.

Last meeting the specification for the front end was tabled, this is going through the tender process.

RW – (new logo tabled)

We have been waiting on the tender process as the university has been undergoing brand revision, and there are structural changes within the faculty. We have a new logo for an overarching entity of 'Enabling Environments' which will contain the research of HMinfo. So this logo was designed to represent this and it will be what is present on the new front end, as the idea of the front end is to give people a landing area where they can understand our objectives without being plonked in the middle of our research output area. The clearinghouse will sit within that.

CB – reasons for this are related to things like our work with Caroma, with whom we have an MOU and have formed a 10-year partnership for research, including an ARC Linkage project, which we will find out about in November. The research will be around healthy older persons' use of sanitaryware, to create detailed data sets that we will then make available for use on the website. Things like data for toilet seat height – no data on this currently exists.

IM – interesting for home mods too – where we need to we use 1428.1, but it's a standard toilet seat unless an OT specifies something else.

CB – older Australians are omitted from research. This is why Caroma want to be involved. They have a dominating share of the Australian market, and are partners with Kohler in Germany and Toto in Japan, functioning under GWS Bathrooms. So they are a multinational conglomerate. They want to keep the market, and the market is getting older. So they see with the ageing demographic the need to keep pace.

IM – Middle to high end product (Caroma) too expensive for our kind of work.

RR – The data will be publicly available?

CB – yes

CB – we also have had some contract variations – UNSW are hosting the website for free. We still have a recurrent expenditure for the website's maintenance.

3. Publications

CB – Bridging and Berming (tabled in draft) is now called Landscape Modification: people couldn't connect with the concept of berming.

We are working with faculty architects and Rickards. We've found that there is almost nothing written about this. We had to conceptualize how the information will be presented. This will be a late June publication. If there is any feedback prior to publication that would be great.

IM – from a builder's perspective, it will only work in some situations, drainage, aeration, etc are issues

CB – we have put into present this in Estonia, the largest landscape design conference in the world.

14:40 – Leslie Radbron arrives

CB – User Appraisal of environmental factors on the independence and wellbeing of older people in three town centres – originally submitted to ADHC, turned to ARC Linkage, but we were not successful with ARC. Sigrid Petterson at Office of Ageing is going to fund where the ARC fell short. 6 town centres from the perspective of older people – info will be geocoded, planning survey. Vijay Silvaraman has been doing this with pollution mapping. The project is being designed as a project in partnership with older Australians.

NL – what is the timeline?

CB – we are waiting to hear from Sigrid.

Aboriginal Housing (tabled- short paper and poster for FICCDAT)
Long draft not complete. Will probably be 6 months – needs lots of consultation.

RR – can this go on the website (poster/paper)

RW – yes but after FICCDAT, with modified graphics to manage file size

CB – Home Modification Follow-up Assessment – lit review is done, next step is qualitative and quantitative.

NL send CB
housing data

NL – Have you used housing data?

CB – it would be great if you could send some

NL – I will send it to you. If you use 1428.1 it doesn't need a DA, but if you suit the user it needs a DA.

CB – paper is in final edit, can circulate if you like.

4.Events & Training

FICCDAT – 6 conferences running concurrently. We have had 6 papers accepted. 2 posters and 4 plenary.

AHURI – RAP (tabled) has been written but will not be published until august

What is significant is the mismatch between demand and supply. In terms of orgs. Such has retirement villages – care is outsourced and taps into HACC funding. So really they only provide maintenance, the rest is the same.

IM – they may not get maintenance under the new model

NL – due to the gst issue

CB – FICCDAT – I have been asked to talk about developing a 'Journal of Inclusive Design'. We will be working with Ed Steinfeld. Only difference between the current clearinghouse and this is that there will be an international peer review process and there will be international submissions.

CB – We have had a paper accepted at Australian Cities Conference and at Gerontology. Abstract submitted to Estonia.

CB – LIEF Grant for Caroma project was commenced, but has been put on hold until 2012, when we will have the outcome of our next ARC

Linkage application.

Draft medium density design guides feedback (tabled)

Disability Support Productivity Draft report response (tabled)

Eltons HACC review – closed on the 27th of May – we didn't put in as it is a conflict of interest.

Two big issues – one is ageing and disability split – splitting money creates admin issues that will delay service provision. Two is that home mods doesn't fit neatly into categories. Poor understanding of how the home asset relates to care provision.

IM – people can't go to one place for their needs.

LR – The danger is that consumers may not be well enough informed.

IM – easy to assess eligibility for program and actual possible home mods

CB – all we know is that there will be another meeting of the review panel

NL – isn't the split related to the misconception that disability is related to ageing?

CB – it is unclear how this will be managed. Access to premises factsheets made public in vic but not nsw

NL – we just got notice of the access panels

CB – mostly around unjustifiable hardship

NL – should have been alternative solutions.

CB – what is of concern is that those nominated are all access consultants – its as1428 all over again.

RR – it's very naughty – no regulation

CB – we really need to do something about this as there is going to be discrimination

RR – let's get together and try to wind it up.

NL – as14258 is such a data-free document its astounding

IM – there are a number of issues are creating havoc

RR – there are a group of untrained people setting themselves up to be the authority

RebR – I think you'll get support from decent access consultants regarding the poor ones.

IM – the 2009 version goes backwards on the previous

RR – need to have some kind of mechanism to police things

IM – new standards have removed the definitions of a barrier in a wet area. Potentially even hand shower installed could be in breach of the standards. Moving forward legal issues – assume the worst. If we put up any wet area equipment, we need to move all electrical outside the bathing area. Easily adds 5k onto a job

CB – Andrew Constantine is the party responsible, Anne-Marie is his right hander – should we set up a meeting?

IM – definitely

NL – yes

CB – feedback on templates – flying off the shelf. Block library will go ahead next year. Downloadable for free

NL – Have you looked at the disability strategy 2011/2016?

15:46 IM Leaves

NL – working on policy doc for construction – asked to look at disability act – looking at a network for liveable housing. Bill Shorten's work referenced heavily. We have had some figures on cost differences – its so light that it only adds 1-3% on cost, so the 16 elements are easy to achieve. Housing is attempting a 'gold plus' approach, most gold and platinum wherever possible.

CB – housing is doing that 100%, aren't they?

NL – 50% universal, but we want to make that accessible. But some of our sites can't be worked with. That's why GIS is so important. Liveable housing is good in isolation but it depends on the site – so it's more like 50%. Liveable housing is ticking so many boxes – lifts are changed, but manufactures have yet to keep pace.

5. Other Clearinghouse News

CB - Jan Scower came from NZ office of disability. Building entirely livable in reconstruction. Rebuild in Qld & Christchurch. Qld was concerned about accessibility re flooding. There are a lot of issue re level entry. Stom technologies are not mentioned in access to premises. Management issues related to accessible toilets and circulation.

Meeting closes at 16:00