



Australia's
Global
University

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse

Never Stand Still

Built Environment

Newsletter

Edition 52 | 30th June 2019



From the Editor

Welcome to the second instalment of the HMinfo Newsletter for 2019.

This newsletter comes only a month after the previous one, however, it brings two new HMinfo publications, a journal article and an event in which I participated.

EBEP and HMinfo have a long partnership with Caroma industries, performing research for their Wellbeing Range, which includes products for independent living for the ageing population. Caroma published a [whitepaper](#) in partnership with EBEP on how industry collaboration, solutions-based innovation and personalised style can drive the future of Aged Care Wellbeing. An event was hosted in their Alexandria showroom on June 6, where we discussed how the physical environment, and more specifically bathroom design, influences a range of social and health measures including quality of life and self-care.

All the details about the event can be found on the [Caroma website](#) and on the company's [linkedin public profile](#).



On a forthcoming event now, OT Australia is organising the [28th National Conference and Exhibition](#), on the 12th of July. I will be participating in the Special Interest Group "Occupational Therapists in Environmental Modifications: Generating knowledge and enabling innovation". All Occupational Therapists have free

access to the trade show and the "[Special Interest Group meetings](#)". So, meet us there to share your views on the home modifications' present and future.

Back to the HMinfo research, a journal article, authored by Dr P. Carnemolla and me, was published in the International journal of environmental research and public health. Our study investigates how home modifications can decrease the need for care in peoples' homes. The results confirm evidence of a relationship across housing and care, and therefore support the case for housing policy and health care reforms to be considered concurrently. Other expected benefits of reducing the need for both formal and informal care in the home includes a reduced cost of caregiving, and the ability for informal caregivers to work outside the home impacting available human capital in the workforce. The research has important implications for design and construction approaches and has relevance for built environment professionals, supporting an understanding of the broader "human impact" implications of populations choosing to stay at home as they continue to age.

One of the HMinfo publications that was published since the previous newsletter, is the second edition of the Evidence Based Practice Review: Designing home environments for people who experience problems with cognition and who display aggressive or self-injurious behaviour. This is a research publication reviewing the available literature on the impact of the physical environment on the behaviour of people that present problems with cognition and highlights nine guidelines reported to assist in the design of optimum home environments. This publication will be accompanied by a Consumer Factsheet and an Industry Factsheet giving practical recommendations for common home environment modifications for people with aggressive and/or self-injurious behaviour.

The most recent HMinfo publication, is a Consumer Factsheet about bidet douche seats, flexible hoses and bidets and the risks of non-compliant installations. There are numerous technical notes published on the subject addressed to experts. However, there are cases where consumers have tried installing these fittings themselves, not realising the backflow hazard and how dangerous this might prove to be for the health of their families and their neighbours. This Consumer Factsheet describes the problem in a simple and comprehensive way.

Finally, I would like to remind you of our new Built Environment Industry Professionals Forum. HMinfo hosts a successful OT Forum since 2003 and wants to ride on the same level of success by replicating a forum for built environment professionals. Creating an inclusive built environment, is challenging, and industry professionals will face substantial change in the next twenty years if it is to meet the increasing demands for an Ageing Population, increasing demand from the NDIS whilst creating less stigmatising, affordable and sustainable design outcomes that build reputation and demonstrate best practices in this field.

Some of the topics of the new HMinfo forum could include:

- Legislation changes and/or impact;
- Funding changes and/or impact on managing/growing your business and getting paid eg. MyAged Care and NDIS funding;
- Royal Commissions ie. Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and/or Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability;
- Licences & permits, eg. Australian Business Licence and Information Service (ABLIS);
- Working with Occupational Therapists and people with disabilities;
- Industry safety issues and environmental concerns, eg. managing dust, asbestos and the like see some state-specific WHS requirements relevant to the construction industry;
- Product issues and product innovations that create better cheaper outcomes
- Other Industry issues and "accessible product and design" exchanges.

Please join us and invite others by passing on this message to anyone who you think could contribute and/or benefit.

<https://www.homemods.info/forums/built-environment-industry-professionals>

Home Modification Resources

Journal paper review - Housing Design and Community Care: How Home Modifications Reduce Care Needs of Older People and People with Disability

The extent to which housing design can minimise levels of community caregiving has remained largely unmeasured. This paper reports the potential for home modifications to reduce caregiving in the peoples' homes, particularly older people and people with a disability. It contributes to new knowledge in understanding how housing can play a role in community caregiving and acknowledges the role of the built environment in managing care levels in ageing societies. This paper analyses self-reported care data from 157 Australian community care recipients (average age: 72 years) who had received home modifications within the past 6 months. A before/after comparison of care provided revealed that home modifications reduced hours of care provided by 42% per week. More detailed analysis revealed that the positive association of home modifications with care reduction is stronger with informal care (46% reduction) followed by formal care (16% reduction). These results suggest the role that home modifications, and housing design in general, play in reducing care needs in a community setting.

Carnemolla, P., & Bridge, C. (2019). Housing Design and Community Care: How Home Modifications Reduce Care Needs of Older People and People with Disability. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 16(11), 1951. Available at: <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/16/11/1951/htm>

Journal paper review - Universal design in housing in Australia: Getting to yes

This article includes a short history of the main trends in housing in Australia during the last decades and more specifically the housing for the vulnerable and the application of Universal Design principles in Australia's residential buildings. The existence of numerous policies, guidelines and standards which cause confusion to the stakeholders, as well as the unwillingness of the contractors to include accessibility features that increase the cost of new buildings have been important barriers for the application of inclusive designs. In 2009 however, after encouragement from the Australian Government, the housing industry adopted the Livable Housing Design Guidelines and it was agreed that all new homes would be built according to Livable Housing Design Silver level by 2020, voluntarily. Not surprisingly, a review of the progress of the application of the Livable Housing Design Guidelines in 2014 showed that the 2020 goal would not be met. In late 2017 COAG (Council of Australian Governments) directed the ABCB to undertake a Regulatory Impact Assessment to examine the silver and gold Livable Housing levels as minimum accessible standards for houses in Australia. The authors summarize the social and economic reasons why the application of Universal design in housing is difficult to be implemented in a voluntary basis and highlight the responsibilities of each of the stakeholder groups.

Ward, M., & Bringolf, J. (2018). Universal Design in Housing in Australia: Getting to Yes. *Studies in health technology and informatics*, 256, 299-306. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30371489>

Events

Conference

Occupational Therapy Australia 28th National Conference and Exhibition 2019

The 28th National Conference and Exhibition will be held at the International Convention Centre, Sydney and will take place from 10-12 July 2019 with an expected audience of over 1000 delegates. The theme for the 2019 National Conference and Exhibition is "Together towards tomorrow". The theme is designed to reflect the dynamic nature of contemporary occupational therapy practice.

"Together" focuses attention to the many ways in which occupational therapists work together and partner with consumers, communities and colleagues to support optimal occupational performance, health and well-being. Partnerships take on a multitude of different forms, including: working together to grow a resilient and skilful workforce; working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to support self-determination; working with consumers and communities to co-design innovative solutions to emerging challenges in a range of contexts; working in cross-disciplinary teams for practice, entrepreneurship, education, and research; and many more.

"Towards tomorrow" encourages us to be forward looking. The future brings a range of opportunities, but also challenges. How can we best respond to the changing needs of the populations we work with, how do we practise most effectively in changing contexts and how can we grow the collective impact of occupational therapy? In looking towards the future, we must also reflect on and learn from our past.

Dates

Wed 10 Jul 2019 - Fri 12 Jul 2019

Wed 10: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Thu 11: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Fri 12: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: International Convention Centre, Sydney

Contact

Phone: 03 9415 2900

Email: conference2019@otaus.com.au

[Link](#)

Summit

2019 ACSA National Summit

The ACSA National Summit will bring together thought leaders and industry pioneers, to discuss hot topics, challenges and opportunities in the sector, workshopping to uncover the solutions to some of the industry's biggest challenges. The Summit is designed to redefine the experience of ageing in our communities, questioning everything regarding delivery of services, seniors housing, consumer care, community integration, business transformation, opportunities in innovative technology and much more.

Dates

Tue 8 Oct 2019 - Thu 10 Oct 2019

Tue 8: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wed 9: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Thu 10: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Convention Centre Pl, South Wharf VIC 3006

Contact

Phone: 1300 877 855

Email: acsasummit@acsa.asn.au

[Link](#)

Publications by HMinfo Team

HMinfo research

Evidence Based Practice Review: Designing home environments for people who experience problems with cognition and who display aggressive or self-injurious behaviour.

People who experience problems with cognition have many adverse behavioural symptoms. Incidences of aggressive or self-injurious behaviours can occur and environmental factors seem to affect these behaviours. The objective of this publication was to determine the physical design features of a home environment that would impact aggressive or self-injurious behaviour in people with cognitive deficits.

The systematic research through the HMinfo Library, Google Scholar and Standard Electronic Databases provided 581 publications, 30 of which were analysed and included in the review.

Little specific information pertaining to the design requirements of the physical home environment for people who experience problems with cognition who display aggressive or self-injurious behaviour exists. The majority of the studies included in this Review were from the USA, pertaining to people with dementia displaying aggressive behaviours. Nine guidelines have been highlighted to assist in the design of optimum home environments. However, not a great deal of literature pertaining to physical home design for people who experience problems with cognition exists, particularly pertaining to those who display self-injurious behaviour. Further research in the home environment is clearly needed.

[Link](#)

Consumer Factsheet: Bidet douche seats, flexible hoses and bidets

The purpose of this factsheet is to inform consumers about the function of bidet douche seats, flexible hoses and bidets and about the hazards associated to non-compliant installations of these fittings in their bathrooms.

[Link](#)

Reports, journal articles and conference papers

Carnemolla, P., & Bridge, C. (2019). Housing Design and Community Care: How Home Modifications Reduce Care Needs of Older People and People with Disability. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 16(11), 1951. Available at: <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/16/11/1951/htm>

HMinfo Team



Professor Catherine Bridge - Director
Hamish MacLennan - Adjunct Associate Professor
Konstantina Vasilakopoulou - Research Associate
Vincent D'cruz - Research Program Administrator
Helmut Hoss - Website Developer

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](#).

www.homemods.info



Copyright © 2019 UNSW Built Environment. Authorised by Built Environment UNSW.