Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting of the HM Information Clearinghouse Advisory Committee

18th September 2008

At 2:00 p.m.

CHAA Meeting Room,

Faculty of the Built Environment

The University of New South Wales

Present

Catherine (Katy) Bridge (Faculty of the Built Environment, UNSW)

Claudia Kennedy (DADHC)

Nicholas Loder replacing Alan Whelan (Department of Housing)

Ruth Robinson (Physical Disability Council of NSW)

Robyn Chapman (Independent Living Centre)

Ian Maxwell (Wesley HMMS)

Steve Malvern (NSW State Wide Home Modification Service)

Amelia Starr (Disability Council of NSW)

Bettino Esposito (NCOSS)

Apologies

Sandi Lightfoot Collins (NSW Health Department)

Stacey Sheppard-Smith (NSW HMMS State Council)

Peter Phibbs (Faculty of Architecture, UWS)

Steve Malvern (KKCC Statewide HMMS)

Chair

Catherine (Katy) Bridge (Faculty of the Built Environment, UNSW)

Note taker

Maree Porter (Faculty of the Built Environment, UNSW)

Notes ***Actions***

1. Welcome, introduction & apologies

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

Minutes from the last meeting

Minutes were accepted as is, no amendments required.

MP to post minutes on website.

3. Clearinghouse update

Webstats:

A copy of the quarterly webstats report was disseminated. Katy advised of the following;

- Improvement from last quarter with increase in number of returning visitors
- Heaviest usage is in NSW
- Of 106 countries using, Australia still majority user
- USA, UK and Canada next highest usage now making up 25% of hits

CB to review webstats report and post to members.

Katy advised the work of the clearinghouse is cross-referenced by USA OT Association and the new evidence-based website hosted by SUNY at Buffalo.

Systematic Review Updates

A number of systematic reviews are currently in progress. These include;

1. The use of colour in the home environment of the elderly and visually impaired individuals.

The aim of this systematic review is to identify and review the effectiveness of the use of colour and colour contrasts around the house to enable elderly and individuals with vision impairment to safely and independently move around their dwellings. The research question was refined into an operational format to allow for a systematic search of the literature. Over 100 papers published between 1980 and 2008 are currently scanned and analysed according to the study inclusion and exclusion criteria. A matrix for the analysis of the information collected has been created and its completion is currently in progress. It was found that the Quality of Evidence was 57% expert opinion followed by 17% observation; of Nationality of Publications 37% from the USA; Population Characteristics reported 33% aged focused followed by 27% dementia related articles. Interventions included colour cueing/colour contrast (37%), selective use of colour (30%), followed by colour coding (18%) and use of brightness (15%).

NG in process of finalising for review.

2. Effectiveness of ceiling hoists during the bed-to-chair transfer.

This review identified strong evidence that ceiling hoists significantly decreased muscular-skeletal injuries and physical stresses among care-givers. Despite a few contrary outcomes, ceiling hoists were given a far higher preference from both care-givers and the care-recipients compared with mobile hoists and manual handling. Ceiling hoists required the least number of assistants to fulfil the transfer task and less time than mobile hoists. Improved manoeuvrability and less susceptibility to spatial

YM to apply all amendments as per CB and review panel comments

restriction have also been well documented. In spite of the relatively high up-front instalment cost, ceiling hoist systems were found to be cost-effective in the long-run. However, ceiling hoists can not be an ultimate solution because manual handling is still required to prepare for a transfer and the efficacy of mobile hoists is still valid due to the coverage limitation of ceiling hoists.

Hot topic Summaries/occasional papers

Occasional paper: Rural Home Modification: Overview and Policy Issues

This study, exploratory by nature, aims to provide comprehensive features of rural home modification in Australia. Based on the findings, it aims to contribute to identification of policy issues for a wider application of home modifications into rural area, and support for policy making for an age-friendly housing environment in rural areas.

YM to continue as per schedule

- Method: This study will review the Australian and international literature in search of rural home modification issues. Additionally, the HACC MDS data will be analysed. The outcomes are expected to show information about the usage of home modifications by remoteness and set the starting point for policy development.

Suggested hot topics / occasional paper / systemic review / fact sheets

- No specific hot topics were tabled for discussion

Events & Training

State HMMS 2008 Biennial Conference, Leura, 01-02/09/08
Katy reported we shared a table with DADHC showcasing our live website and it's many resources. Attendees were given the opportunity to register with the website or update their log-in details on the day. HMMS workers were encouraged to update and /or confirm their service address and contact details on the website and to go in the draw to win a bottle of sparkling wine. Katy presented a workshop on both days titled *Navigating the Home Modification Information Clearinghouse Website.* Workers from 35 individual home modification and maintenance services updated/confirmed their service records.

Publications disseminated: approximately: 180 *UNSW Home Modification Information Clearinghouse flyers*, 9 copies of the *08 Annual Report*, 50 *Complete Home Modification Information Clearinghouse Annotated Bibliographies;* 20 copies of a step-by-step guide to *Updating Service Records* and 50 *Guides to using the HmInfo Forum area* were distributed to attendees.

Other material such as the *Building the Future* publications, and various DADHC material and bags were also given away. Overall, the conference provided an important opportunity to talk

with HMMS workers, builders, and OTs about the website and how it can serve them as a useful resource.

OT Australia National Conference, Melbourne 11-13/09/08
Katy reported while not in attendance, HmInfo sent resource materials to the conference.

AAG 41st National Conference, Fremantle 18-21/11/08
Bill Mann is the keynote speaker for the conference, he has a "smart house" research laboratory and an particular research focus on older people and driving.

Horiba-APRU Conference, Tokyo, Japan 8-12/09/08
Invitation only conference sponsored by the University of Tokyo. Japan is a hyper ageing society. Katy presented a paper on the HmInfo website and won a funding grant to work on informal care and accommodation issues across the Asia Pacific in partnership with six other Asia Pacific countries.

19th IAGG (International Aging, Gerontology and Geriatrics) World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics Paris, France 5-9/07/09
Katy had an abstract accepted for this conference and will be attending.

ARAAT Conference
Robyn noted that a colleague will present a paper on the link between assistive technology and the built environment at this conference.

Other Clearinghouse Projects

My Virtual Home project

Katy gave a summary of the project and the developments to date. My Virtual Home is free software for consumers. The program would enable OTs and builders to interactively communicate the end design outcome in a virtual form as a part of the assessment process. Katy is in discussions with FBE staff regarding the recruitment of UNSW Architecture students to perform CAD drawings for the project.

KB to continue negotiations with FBE staff regarding students completing CAD drawings

"Off the Rails" AV Pilot Project

The project came after discussions regarding the possibility of creating informative downloadable clips to mobile phones, on the 'how to' of Home Mods, would be beneficial. Peter Phibbs produced a script on installing your own grabrail highlighting problems facing all three parties (OT, builder and client). The script was available for review at the meeting. Comments and feedback from Advisory Committee were invited. PDF copies of the script were also available upon request.

Advisory Committee to forward feedback on the film to **KB**

A 'rough-cut' of the film "Off The Rails" was presented during the

meeting and lengthy discussion followed.

It was agreed that this is medium is an ideal resource for training and informing OTs, and builders yet some issues were raised.

Claudia noted the message of the film is not clear and clarification is required. Katy suggested voice over explaining the importance of collaborative communications based on sound information. Robyn noted the importance of understanding the role of the OT and builder, Amelia agreed stating a need for collaboration with the OT and builder. Ian and Katy suggested using the film as a training resource for OTs and builders in conjunction with additional information. Nicholas and Amelia agreed stating it featured a good introduction to the issues and has a possibility for use in training other HACC services.

Katy asked how the film should be released and to whom?

Claudia stated that it needs further editing and clarification explaining what “To Do” as film clearly states what “Not To Do”, with Ian agreeing that is does need further explanation. Amelia suggested including text directing audience where to locate information on grabrails ‘To get this information, go to...’. Katy and Robyn agreed that home modification is a team approach and this needs to be made clear to the audience. Claudia noted that if it is HACC funded, it should feature the HACC logo. Katy advised the committee that the film was conducted as part of a funded project on mobile phones, allowing mobile phones to link in and feed into website resources. Robyn reported that Daniel Woo at UNSW’s Human computer interaction laboratory is working on interactive websites and that the mobile is a one-stop-shop while accessing information in a client’s home; log-in and confirms information. Ian noted an in interest for easily accessible information resources downloadable to mobile phone for on-site builders and its feasibility. Katy replied stating the usability is approximately 5 years away – with Amelia and Katy acknowledging the current high fees for downloads to mobiles would be a barrier – but need to start work now on current technology and cost efficiency.

DADHC Group Homes Design Guidelines Revision

Post-occupancy audits of Group Homes using qualitative interview data with 36 members of group homes in NSW including staff and residents and from this and systematic review findings developed a set of guidelines. The guidelines are complete and the project officer is employing a paten.

KB write to Sam re: permission for Advisory Committee to access the Guidelines

Dementia Day Centre Plan Audit

Complete for HACC funded centres/providers. Finding was that day centres were incorporating guidelines

Reverse Mortgages: AHURI funded project

KB is Chief Investigator on this AHURI funded project. FBE Ethics Committee approval received granting permission to commence the project at UNSW. At stage of drafting Positioning Paper with

MP and **KB** to follow-up on

focus groups and individual interviews with mortgage brokers due to commence soon, with individual interviews with older people to follow.

Positioning Paper and

Other business

HmInfo Clearinghouse Annual Report 07/08

The annual report is complete. Copies were disseminated to members. Comments and feedback welcome especially as they pertain to next years report. Please note that we did not have photos of all our Advisory committee members so a photo of new members would be appreciated by email or at our next meeting.

MOU with Home Modification and Maintenance State Council and Independent Living Centre

Katy reported the MOU documents have been drafted and are with Stacey and ILC for review.

KB to contact SSS and ILC

WorkCover and OTs Meeting

A meeting was held at J003, Faculty of Health Sciences to discuss an important WorkCover issue facing OTs and the meeting was Minuted. Sue Dinley bought the issue to the attention of HmInfo reporting the potential for liability for OT's when engaging a builder to perform a home modification. OT's felt that recommendations to builders made them project managers and therefore needed to manage under WorkCover Guidelines. If OTs don't instruct builders on WorkCover issues then the OT is liable for not providing workers with potential risks. The problem came to light and OT's need to be educated to decrease liability and risk and correspondence was sent to the OT Association expressing concerns raised in the meeting.

A follow-up meeting will be planned for the near future.

KB to follow-up on meeting

Wheelchair Systematic Review

Katy reported that the Sax Institute had written to her ti say that Enable-NSW had employed an OT to perform both the wheelchair and incontinence systematic reviews.

KB to report back on the findings

Input to Governments 2020 Summit

Katy invited committee members to review the submission by the Clearinghouse to the 2020 Summit <www.australia2020.gov.au>; which can be found under "HmInfo" on the website.

Exploring Additional Funding Sources

Katy reported that the Commonwealth are making changes to

KB to follow-up on other funding

HACC funding with no decisions as yet. Claudia noted that any changes to the administration of HACC funding would be expected to change over a period of time.

options with HmInfo staff

Members of Advisory Committee leaving

Nicholas Loder replacing Alan Whelan (Department of Housing)

Bettino Esposito replacing Ruth Jacka (NCOSS)

Next Advisory Committee Meeting

The venue for the next meeting will be the CHAA Meeting Room the date for the meeting is Thursday the 11th December 2008 at 2:00pm in the Faculty of the Built Environment, the University of NSW.