



Newsletter

Edition 62 | 17th December 2021

Editor's Note

Welcome to the fourth instalment of the HMinfo Newsletter for 2021.

In this newsletter we introduce two new HMinfo publications, publications by others relevant to the use of smart home controls for older people and people with disability and inform you about the main events for the first couple of months of 2022.

Wishing you peace, love, and joy this holiday season and throughout 2022.

NEW HMinfo RESOURCES

Industry Factsheet: Home automations for older people and people with disability

This factsheet aims to present the main categories of "home automations" or "smart controls" for the home, which can be useful for older people and people with disabilities and describe some considerations for their installation, in new or existing homes.



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

Activities, Participation, Accessibility and Safety in the Home Environment for Children and Young People with Physical Disabilities: A Systematic Review

Authors: Fowler, B., Kirwan, T.

In Australia, nearly two percent of children and young people under 15 years with a disability have physical restrictions. Many will require occupational therapy at some stage in their lives to facilitate independence in activities of daily living, participation, home accessibility and home safety. This systematic review aims to identify effective occupational therapy for children and young people with



physical disability in the home. Eligible quantitative research studies published between 2005 and 2020 were identified and 29 studies fitting the inclusion criteria were examined in this systematic review. While the quality of the studies in this area of physical disability is varied in breadth and scope, there is generally moderate to high-quality evidence for the effectiveness of occupational therapy interventions in the areas of self-care and functional mobility; and low to moderate for participation in domestic living/household tasks; and low for home modification.

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Recent HMinfo RESOURCES

Consumer Factsheet: Fire Safety: Escape

This factsheet aims to give information on the implementation of an Escape Plan for the place where older people and people with disabilities live. It will provide guidance on how to prepare and practice the safe Escape Plan, considering the layout and contents of the home and the abilities of everyone who lives there.



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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.

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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](#)



Other RESOURCES

Benefits of Smart Home Technology for Individuals Living with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

Wallock, K.E. and Cerny, S. L., 2021, Benefits of Smart Home Technology for Individuals Living with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits, Volume 15, Winter 2021, pp. 132-138. Available online: www.atia.org/atob

This report describes the results of a smart home pilot program for people with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The program included provision of equipment, training and education, and technical support. The devices were supplied by the ALS Association and included: one smart speaker; two remote smart speakers; two smart plugs; three light bulbs; and one optional smart home entertainment unit. Most of the participants had a positive experience, used the smart home technology daily and reported regaining some functional independence in their home environment.

[View this resource on your browser](#)

Smart home and communication technology for people with disability: a scoping review

Rebecca Jamwal, Hannah K. Jarman, Eve Roseingrave, Jacinta Douglas & Dianne Winkler (2020): Smart home and communication technology for people with disability: A scoping review. *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*, DOI: 10.1080/17483107.2020.1818138

This scoping review explores the impact of smart home and communication technology on people with disabilities and complex needs. Increased independence was noted as an important outcome of technology use, especially in social participation. Privacy is highlighted by participants of the included studies as an issue of technology used for ensuring the safety of people with disability by sharing their status with their carers. Personalization and tailoring of the devices and systems are also reported as necessary parameters.

[View this resource on your browser](#)

EVENTS

ADSCA Conference

The Australian Disability Service Conference aspires to build a disability workforce that sets a benchmark for the rest of the world. Conference sessions around the theme of Leading Excellence Through Innovation will be interactive, thought-provoking and engaging.

The following topics will be explored:

- Fostering Community and Inclusion
- Building a World-Class Workforce
- Harnessing Research and Technology
- Leading Business Innovation and Navigating Change for Success

Dates: 17 Feb 2022, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

[Link](#)

National Home Modification Conference – Canberra

This year's conference *Ramping it Up* is being held at a critical junction between periods of disruption and promised reform in the disability support and aged care systems.

This will be an opportunity for people who are passionate about home modifications to meet and discuss issues of concern, and to lay out the blueprint for affecting change in government and improving policy and practice.

Dates: 21 - 22 Feb 2022

[Link](#)

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