



HMinfo Newsletter

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Welcome from A/Professor Catherine Bridge

Welcome to the first HMinfo news update of 2012. The Clearinghouse has undergone a number of changes in the past 2 years, including a move into the [CityFutures Research Centre](#) at UNSW. We have expanded and added another team to our group, the [Enabling Built Environments](#) program. We have also welcomed our

first Masters student, and two PhD students who are looking into various issues about housing and modifications.

This newsletter will serve to showcase recent publications, successes and resources that are relevant to the Home Modifications sector and the consumers who access it.

Current research project

A user appraisal of the contribution of built environment factors to the independence and wellbeing of older people in two NSW regional town centres. In 2002 the ABS reported that 99% of persons aged 75 years and over had at least one long-term condition. Consequently, the immediate built environment conditions and local neighbourhood circumstances of this group will become an increasingly critical factor in their overall wellbeing. Yet there has been little direct research on these issues in Australia. We have selected the three regional cities of Tweed Heads, Wollongong and Dubbo to pilot a set of tools for evaluating the perceptions of older

persons of their built environment and to thereby determine the degree to which the existing built environments facilitate accessibility and hence contribute to wellbeing. The particular focus in this study will be on the town centre/main street area of the regional centres.



The aim of this study is to obtain a clear understanding of what aspects of the built environment are valued and function well for older persons and what features restrict their access and diminish their wellbeing.

Websites we like: Livable Housing Australia



Livable Housing Australia (LHA) is the lead national, not-for profit organisation for livable housing design in

Australia. Established in June 2011, LHA's primary objective is to champion everyday Australians, the residential building and property industry and all levels of Government to adopt livable housing features in all new homes being built in Australia. It is

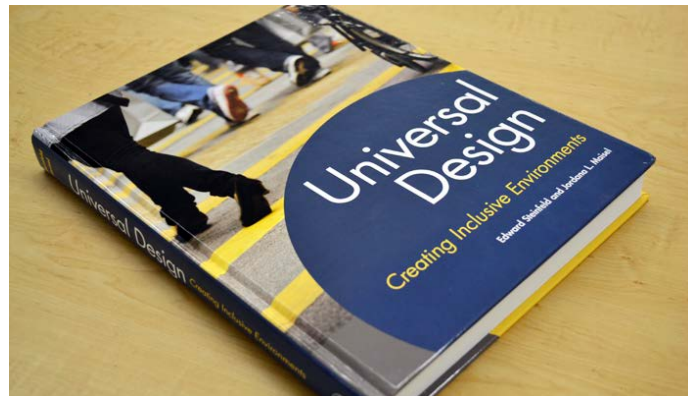
supported by industry, government and lead consumer organisations across the country. LHA is committed to establishing national awareness, education and housing accreditation programs that will enable the community, the residential building and property industry and all levels of Government to identify and better understand the value of livable housing design.

LHA is responsible for the development, dissemination and revision of the nationally agreed Livable Housing Design (LHD) Guidelines.

[Read more...](#)

Book Review: Universal Design. Creating Inclusive Environments

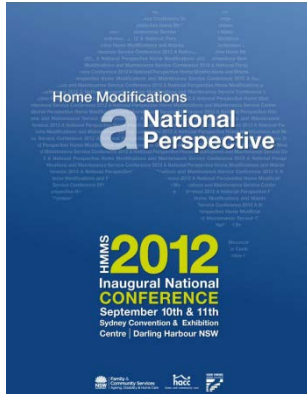
This new book by Edward Steinfeld and Jordana Maisel from the State University of New York looks at realistic and innovative solutions in universal design across a range of environments. Home modifications are specifically identified as an area that could benefit from



these principles. It looks as the very real issues of the ageing population and how to plan and build good living environments that do not require large change or alteration as their owner's age. It is designed as a reference tools for architects, designers, planners and other professions who are invested in creating an effective and supportive built environment. This book is available at Wiley, Amazon or Barnes and Noble.

Events

NSW HMMS 2012 National Conference



The NSW Home Modification and Maintenance Services State Council is currently co-ordinating the '*Home Modifications, a National Perspective, 2012 Inaugural National Conference*' for the Home Modifications industry in Australia.

The Conference will be held on the 10th and 11th of September 2012 at the

Darling Harbour Convention Centre in Sydney

The Conference Program will be tailored to explore emerging issues within the context of the Government's current reform agenda for the Home Modifications sector. The Conference will bring together Service Providers, Builders, Occupational Therapists, Policy Makers, Academics and other stakeholders.

Delegates will be given the opportunity to develop and expand their knowledge base, practical skills and product knowledge via workshops, presentations and a dynamic, interactive trade displays.

[Read more...](#)

Publications by HMinfo team members

Jung, Y. M., & Bridge, C. (2012). Demountable ramps: A qualitative assessment of value for people with mobility impairments. Sydney: Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, The University of New South Wales. Available from www.homemods.info

Fishpool, J., & Bridge, C. (2012). Follow-up efficacy post environmental modifications; a guide for clinical practice. *Occasional paper*. www.homemods.info: UNSW, Sydney.

Bridge, C., Davy, L., Judd, B., Flatau, P., Morris, A. & Phibbs, P. (2011) Age-specific housing and care for low to moderate income older people; AHURI Final Report No 174

More publications are available on [the HMinfo website](#)

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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