



Home Modification Information Clearinghouse

Never Stand Still

Built Environment

Newsletter

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From the Director

I hope some of you got to listen to The Science Show on ABC last Saturday as Dr Phillippa Carnemolla one of our young rising stars was on air talking about "Home modifications produce large payback". The radio interview was a synopsis of her PhD research which showed that home modifications can reduce care up to 42% and improve all aspects of quality of life to boot. For those of you who missed it, you may want to listen now on <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/home-modifications-produce-large-payback/7266976>.

Other great news is that we are about to embark on a phase two DIY Home Modification project funded by the NSW State Government. I can also confirm that I will be part of a 30 min Q&A panel discussion on housing alternatives as a part of the NDIS Housing Innovation Showcase event at Sydney Olympic Park on 6 April 2016. This event has already reached capacity and over 500 people are expected.

Also on a good note, I can report that all our website accessibility upgrades have been completed. We have also successfully migrated the remaining original OT listserv users across to the website and so now that we have this circle of friends module working well, we can now turn our attention to designers, architects and builders. Helmut, our website programmer, has also completed a degree of backend automation which makes our day to day life easier including automation of our Website Reporting and Newsletter PDF integration.

On a different tack, we are gearing up to meet the quality requirements of the Ageing Disability and Home Care Funding Agreement 2015-2018 for Disability Service Providers which requires us to undertake Third Party Verification of the quality of our service performance against the NSW DSS, by 2018. We already have our quality processes in the EBEP Protocol Manual, so are currently doing a self-assessment of our processes against NSW DSS standards.

Last but not least, I do hope that we will all meet up in Canberra, face to face, at the Home Modifications Australia (MOD.A) National Conference which is held from 28-29 April 2016 at the National Convention Centre in Canberra. HMinfo has worked closely with MOD.A to get this inaugural National Conference up and running and we will be sharing new research including an examination of the motives, successes and failures in the relationship between older people, people with disabilities and their carers with home hardware and trades in relation to home modifications.

HMinfo Research

Occasional Paper: DIY Home Modification: What information is required at point-of-sale?

This report presents the final findings of an interdisciplinary research project examining the phenomena of 'Do It Yourself' (DIY) home modification projects undertaken by the general public outside of any government funding program. The rise of the DIY culture, fuelled by reality shows and media in conjunction with a can-do spirit has always been valorised and is seen as a part of taking greater personal control and responsibility for what's important. Recognition particularly more recently that people including those with disabilities routinely consume as part of the effective accomplishment of everyday life creates a new agenda, one more focused on relatively mundane commodities and on ordinary processes of use and acquisition in and around the home as a response to disability itself.

A couple of key findings were:

Despite policy aiming to support ageing in place there remain significant challenges in providing support services which would enable this. These challenges need to be considered in the context of the aged care reforms and the NDIS implementation.

People enact creative solutions and exert control over their own futures through choosing home modifications that enable them to remain and function capably in their own homes. The same creativity, control and agency were shown by the participants in this research.

Successful ageing in place can be encouraged through DIY home modifications.

Home Modification Resources

Newest Journal/ Book Review

This quarter we thought we would focus on dementia and give you a review of three new studies.

First, a new scoping review of home modifications and dementia was published in the American Journal of Occupational Therapy. This review set out to: (1) to gain insight into what is known from the literature about home modifications for people with Alzheimer's disease (AD) and (2) to identify gaps in the literature that could lead to opportunities for research. They reviewed peer-reviewed articles published from 1994 through 2014 that explored home modifications and dementia and they found that seventeen articles met the inclusion criteria. The three major findings pertain to (1) the caregiver role and caregiver training, (2) a client-centered collaborative approach to assessment and intervention, and (3) modifications for safety and function. Home modifications involved the physical and social environments as well as cognitive strategies at the task level. They concluded that opportunities exist for the development of assessment procedures, the exploration of home modifications in the later stages of AD, and the study of home modification needs of people with dementia who live alone.

The full citation is:

Struckmeyer, L. R., & Pickens, N. D., 2016, '*Home modifications for people with Alzheimer's disease: A scoping review*', American Journal of Occupational Therapy, 70 7001270020, <http://dx.doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2015.016089>

Second, this American research focuses on qualitative phenomena regarding home modification in rural areas and found that caregivers need specific training before environmental changes. For instance, in this

study caregivers felt that changing the environment might negatively affect the mood or behaviours of their family members with dementia. For example in the text these quotations were used to support the thesis "It causes confusion when you change things around" and "...show me that it is going to improve her before I change it because any change we make causes major confusion". This points to longer consultations and the need for more research and better resources for carers.

The full citation is:

Damme, M. J. and Ray-Vegges, S., 2016, 'A Qualitative Study on Home Modification of Rural Caregivers for People with Dementia', *Journal of Housing For the Elderly*, 30 1, 89-106
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02763893.2015.1129384>

Third, this Australian study found that "Home modification was viewed as a critical component of enabling [those with dementia] to remain in their homes and to retain quality of life. Service providers were critical of current housing design, which focuses on aesthetics above function for older people including those with mobility and cognitive issues. Service providers emphasised the value of timely access to home modification. This did not always occur due to lack of education, lack of resources and waiting lists. They noted that modifications for [those with dementia] are most effective when they are tailored to the specific needs of the individual. This is a challenge for public and community housing providers who are operating with constrained and declining budgets".

The full citation is:

Gabriel, M., Faulkner, D. and Stirling, C., 2015. 'Housing priorities of people with dementia: security, continuity and support', Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Limited,
<http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/projects/p41022>

Staff Updates

Aldyfra Lukman an Architectural Academic who is also an Enabling Built Environment Program current PhD student, has joined the team, one day a week to work on the systematic updating of our vision and lighting work. Aldy's thesis concerns vision and visibility guidelines for the built environment and is being conducted with the assistance of the Access Consultants Association, Vision Australia and the School of Optometry and Vision Science's Vision Clinic.

Events

Events

Home Modifications Australia (MOD.A) National Conference 28 Apr 2016 - 29 Apr 2016

This Conference is an exciting opportunity for delegates to hear about the latest in home modifications and to network and share their knowledge with other providers in the sector. The programme will include (international) plenary speakers, oral presentations across different themes and an extensive trade and exhibition component.

This years' Conference - Modifying the Home: Building-Inclusion-Practice - will highlight the latest research and evidence-base available in the home modification sector, bring together some of the world's most prominent experts in the field, highlight innovative service providers and provide an opportunity for delegates to inform future policy directions in aged and disability care.

<http://www.homemods.info/events/list/home-modifications-australia-mod-a-national-conference-2016>

SCIA Independence Expo 15 Apr 2016 - 16 Apr 2016

The expo we will welcome hundreds of people with physical disabilities, their families, friends and carers, to showcase the best products, services and practical information available today.

<http://scia.org.au/home/1-home-page-storie/713-scia-independence-expo-is-back-in-2016>

32nd Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity: From the Margins to the Centre 25 Apr 2016 - 26 Apr 2016

The Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity is in its 32nd year, and it will be held on April 25-26, 2016. The conference asks that you include them in your blog or event page, as they are intending to make 2016 their best year yet. The information that they wish to post is included below. In exchange, they would be happy to post something about you on their Community page.

<http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/>

Training events

WORKSHOP: From experience to evidence: Developing research capacity: Writing for publication 6 May 2016

Many practitioners have stories of practice knowledge that they would like to develop and share with their peers, in order to contribute to practice knowledge. If you have, (or are preparing to in the future), presented at conferences, workshops or symposia, undertaken post graduate studies and work but have not yet taken the leap in to sharing your practice knowledge through a published article (for example through a feature article; viewpoint or research article) but you have some knowledge ready to share, this is the workshop for you.

<http://www.homemods.info/events/list/workshop-from-experience-to-evidence-developing-research-capacity-writing-for-publication#main-content>

Publications by HMinfo Team

HMinfo research

Addressing the housing needs of participants is critical to NDIS success

vizel, I., Laragy, C., Gendera, S., Fisher, K. R., Jenkinson, S., Hill, T., . . . Bridge, C. (2016). Addressing the housing needs of participants is critical to NDIS success: Research and Policy Bulletin (205).

<http://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/research-and-policy-bulletins/205>

Retirement Village or the General Community? Downsizing Choices of Older Australians

Judd, B., Liu, E., Easthope, H., & Bridge, C. (2015). Retirement Village or the General Community? Downsizing Choices of Older Australians. In P. Burton, & H. Shearer (Eds.), State of Australian Cities Conference 2015: Refereed Proceedings. Gold Coast: State of Australian Cities Research Network.

<http://soaconference.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Judd..pdf>

Reports, journal articles and conference papers

Bridge CE, Mintzes A, and Demirbilek O, 2015, '*Older Australian out and about in the global context: Their bathroom preferences and what this means for standards development and accessible tourism.*', Journal of Universal Design In The Built Environment, 1 1, 15-23

Bridge, C. & Carnemolla P. (in press), 2016, '*Effective home modification practice. In Occupational Therapy and Physical Dysfunction (7th Ed.)*'. Elsevier

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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. To unsubscribe from future HMinfo newsletters, please click [unsubscribe](#).

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