



The University of Sydney

Faculties of Health Sciences and Architecture

**Home Modification & Maintenance:
Information Clearing House Project**

Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting of the HMM Information Clearinghouse Advisory Group

Thursday, 29th of May, 2003

At 3.00 p.m.

**J108, Lidcombe Campus,
The Faculty of Health Sciences,
the University of Sydney**

Present

Mr Mark Flynn (Dept of Ageing, Disability and Home Care)
Mr Alan Meldrum (NSW Statewide Home Modification Service)
Ms Rebecca Rodgers (Department of Veterans Affairs NSW State Office)
Ms Elvina Weissel (Department of Veterans Affairs NSW State Office)
Dr Robert Champion (Health & Community Care Branch, Health Department of NSW)
Ms Anne Reeve (Illawarra HMMS)
Mr Dougie Herd (Physical Disability Council of NSW)
Mr Ian Maxwell (Orange HMMS)
Ms Catherine Bridge (School of OLS, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney)

Apologies

Ms Jane Bringolf (Independent Living Centre of NSW)
Ms Susanne Pierce (Dept of Ageing Disability & Home Care)
Mr Noel Baum (Local Government Association of NSW and Shires Association of NSW)
Mr Dinesh Wadiwel (NCOSS)
Mr Mark Nutting (Housing Policy NSW)
Mr Neil Tucker (Council On The Ageing)
Ms Brenda Bailey (Council On The Ageing)

Chair

Assoc Prof Peter Phibbs (Faculty of Architecture, University of Sydney)

Note taker

Ms Julie Cameron (School of OLS, Faculty Of Health Sciences, University of Sydney)

Notes

Actions

1 Welcome, introduction & apologies

Susanne has informed us that Mark Flynn will be representing DADHC on the Advisory Committee in place of Phillippa, Andrew and Susanne.

2 Minutes from the last meeting

- SP forwarded her comments as she will not be at the meeting.
 - Top of p2 dot point one ('Suzanne questioned.....') - not quite right. The comment made related to the appropriateness of the committee commenting in the sense of seeking to influence the content (i.e. not appropriate), as opposed to discussing and working through how the findings/outcomes of any research can be managed/progressed.
 - Top of p3, paragraph 1 - This comment was meant as a general approach rather than as a straight quote to be included.
- Correction noted to Bob Champion's title. Title should be Mr not Dr.
- Minutes accepted with above amendments

3 Clearinghouse website development

- Peter provided an overview of the website development status.
 - Usability tests and resultant actions. The series of three usability tests has been completed. The website has been amended / modified where possible to accommodate the feedback.
 - The website is scheduled to go live on June 11 prior to official launch.
 - In general aim of the website is to simplify information provided and maintain the simplicity of the site.
- Alan questioned the legality / liability of HMM providers if they endorse a product on the website. Kate referred to the 'rules' of list serve and added that the list serve would be archived. Peter reinforced that use of website and products is at discretion of end user not HMMInfo team.
- Bob asked for the web address.

Notes

Actions

4 Evidenced Based Practice (EBP) reviews

- The Committee was asked to comment on the Potential EBP Review list forwarded prior to the meeting with the Agenda. Anne questioned the intent of No. 4 (see attached list). Would the results of this review apply to grab rails and / or hand rails. Kate explained the results should be applicable to both. Ian commented that textured rails seem to cause problem over time because of contaminant build up.
- Alan suggested fixings for grab rails be considered. Kate discussed the different variables involved. In particular one point fixing has increased risk of failure over multiple points fixing. Ian and Rebecca concurred this was widespread issue.
- Anne suggested slip resistant tiles (No.3) as next review topic or a topic relating to water proofing (No.8). Alan and Ian concurred.
- It was agreed that No. 4 and No. 5 should be the next review completed. However if the Australian Building Codes Board clearly articulate electrical socket requirements, prior to commencement of the EBP Review, (No.5) would no longer be a priority.

Commence Evidence based practice review on finished surfaces of grab rails **Kate, Peter, Kamala, Julie**

5 Specialist Panel Formation

- Peter asked for feedback on list of Potential Candidates for Review Panels circulated prior to the meeting with the Agenda. Anne commented that the number of candidates is small and as such recommended a contingency group should any of proposed candidates decline the invitation. Anne continued the candidates represented a good cross representation. Mark suggested that mental health was not represented in the candidate list – people with dementia and their carers often have significant to home modification requirements.
- Each candidate will receive a cover letter / invitation, Terms of Reference and Protocol. Rebecca asked what protocol is in place if a panel member withdraws or if does not perform satisfactorily in the position.
- Bob queried what time frame is connected to the appointment. He suggested that a limited time frame had the advantage of introducing new approaches periodically and may be more appealing to candidates when committing to panel.
- Agreed time frame for inaugural panel is 18months

Redraft invitation and terms of reference **Julie**

Notes

Actions

6 Other Business

- Occasional papers
 - Katy explained that Occasional papers were not a systematic review but offer a theoretical background to methodological issues. Such information may broaden OTs and HMM services understanding and hence support Evidence Based Practice. Also this information could be used by DADHC to inform policy making e.g. specific environmental interventions may become policy decision. Katy explained the need for a protocol in relation to ongoing reviews and honours projects. Some explanation of the current honours projects was given. Rebecca noted that OT Association has commissioned a review into the needs of OTs in relation home modifications which may be useful for honours project relating to OT needs analysis.
- Biomechanical principles: Katy provided an overview of the paper. She commented that the paper was generally well received on OT home modification list serve.
- Anne suggested future occasional papers may be used to quell HMM services' concerns as 'hot' topics come up.
 - Katy added that the results of the post occupancy review of home modifications were another potential occasional paper.
- Ian stated that Orange HMM service policy is to use AS1428.1 as a starting point for all home modifications. The policy requires a clear rationale for departing from the standards. Anne stated consumers are also more informed eg House and Garden Adaptable Housing CD is available with the current edition of the House and Garden Magazine.
- It was noted that, as agreed with DADHC, the Schedule of Deliverables requires 2 Evidence Based Practice (EBP) Reviews every 6 months.
- Katy provided an overview of the key components of the EBP Review protocol. On average 18 weeks is required to complete each Review.
- Katy requested feedback from the committee on the EBP Review protocol and specialist review panel info within 21 days.

Notes

Actions

- Following publication of results of Project Rainbow, Dulux has released products to assist with understanding colour contrast and the use of colour contrast in decorating the home. The Dulux CD recently acquired by the HMMInfo project will be added to HMMInfo library and entered onto website.
- RR gave her apologies for the next meeting.

7 Next Working Group Meeting

3.00 pm, 28 August 2003 at the Faculty of Architecture, City Road, Sydney.

Meeting closed at 4:15p.m.

Attachments: Potential Evidence Based Practice Reviews

Problem Statements

1. Is reeded timber suitable as a slip resistant surfacing of outdoor ramps used by clients with mobility problems?
2. Is a 25mm a suitable diameter for grab rails installed in the homes of older people?
3. Does a commercially available product applied to tiled floor surfaces provide a suitable slip resistant surface for people with mobility impairment?
4. Do polyvinyl grab rails maintain a surface temperature that is safe to grasp?
5. Do weighted shower curtains provide an adequate barrier that protects people with mobility impairment from electrocution?
6. Does inlaid floor lighting provide adequate illumination to enable safe and independent mobility by people with vision impairment?
7. Is a flashing light (door bell) placed in the main living area of the home adequate to gain the attention of a person with hearing impairment?
8. Does a commercially available 'paint on' product provide an adequate solution to water proofing following disruption to the existing water proofing membrane during bathroom modification?
9. Does berming provide a suitable solution to changes in level at the threshold of people who mobilise with a wheelchair?
10. Is 15cm a suitable length for the extension of a lever tap to maximise control of people with reduced upper limb range of motion?
11. Do extensions on capstan taps improve the control of people with reduced upper limb range of motion?

Key Components

	Product	Intervention	Comparison	Outcome	Target group
1	Timber	ramp	Reeded versus sawn	Reducing slips trips and falls	Mobility impairment
2	Grab rails	diameter	Hand size	Maximize grasp strength	Older
3	Tiles	Slip resistant finish	Applied coating v tessellated tiles	Reducing slips trips and falls	Mobility impairment
4	Grab rails	Finish of contact surface	Polyvinyl v painted or powder finish	Reducing temperature conductivity	People with peripheral neuropathy or living extreme climate
5	Handheld showers	Enclosed shower area	Weighted curtain v screen	Minimise risk of electrocution	Mobility impairment
6	Illumination	Lux level on accessible pot	floor v overhead lighting	Maximize safe and independent mobility	Vision impairment
7	Door bells	Flashing light	Placement v brightness	Gain attention	Hearing impairment
8	Water proofing shower areas	Post disruption to existing membrane	Paint solution v tray	Minimise water damage	Mobility impairment
9	Change of level at threshold	Threshold ramp	Berming v wood / trede	Reduce risk of injury	Wheelchair user
10	Lever Taps	Extension	Length of extension	Increase control	Limited upper limb rom
11	Capstan taps	Extension	Length of extension	Increase control	Limited UL rom