



HMinfo Newsletter

Edition 32 - June 2014 | [Visit our Website](#)

From the editor

Welcome to our June instalment of the HMinfo Newsletter.

Staff News:

In May we said farewell to our Research Associate Laura Davy, who has gone on to complete her PhD full time.

Our Research Assistant Michelle Svenger is close to completing the reprinting and re-formatting of our existing HMinfo publications, most of which are on the website now. A link is provided at the bottom of the newsletter.

Website News:

Website accessibility continues to be improved. Optimisation of our Service Directory has now been completed allowing the Service Directory to operate much faster.

www.homemods.info

Conference News:

A/Prof Catherine Bridge will be on the road in June and early July, presenting at the following conferences:

- 10-13 June 2014 - 12th International Federation on Ageing (IFA) Global Conference on Ageing: Health, Security and Community - HICC Hyderabad, India
- 16-18 June 2014 - International Conference on Universal Design (UD2014) - Lund University, Sweden
- 1- 4 July 2014 – European Network for Housing Design Research (ENHR) Conference - Edinburgh, Scotland.



Current Research Project

DIY Home Modifications: Point-of-Sale Support for People with Disability and their Carers

Nicole McNamara and Associate Professor Catherine Bridge

Despite a vast amount of research into home modifications in Australia and their benefits for government and individuals, there exists a significant knowledge gap about home modifications that are undertaken outside of government-subsidised schemes. This project investigates a previously overlooked area of home modifications research, to examine do-it-yourself (DIY) home modifications in NSW and expand upon current research that

examines the cost-benefit of home modifications for consumers and governments.

Early findings from this research project identify numerous motivating factors for undertaking DIY home modifications, including cost, time and independence, and identify a lack of information about DIY home modifications specific to Australia in retailers and online.

Associate Professor Bridge will be presenting on the project at the 2014 Universal Design conference in Lund this month. The paper is entitled DIY Home Modifications: an Australian case-study of choice and control, and explores the possible contributions the research project can make to our understanding of Universal Design Principles.

Closer to home we are currently running two surveys about DIY home modifications in order to better understand DIY home modification practice from a consumer perspective and an industry perspective.

Do you know someone who has modified their home to accommodate ageing or disability?

The [DIY Consumer survey](#) and [DIY Industry survey](#) are available online, or by contacting Nicole McNamara (Ph: 02 9385 4529 E: nicole.mcnamara@unsw.edu.au).

Websites we like: I'm Okay - Emergency Readiness for People with Disability



<http://www.pdcnsw-emergencyready.com/about>

I'm Okay launched in April 2014, established by the Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN) with funding from NRMA Insurance.

The website was developed to provide emergency readiness information and tools for people with disability. *I'm Okay* provides information and tools to assist individuals prepare for bushfires, fires, storm events and flooding, and protect their personal safety.

The section titled Action Plan Steps guides the user through four practical steps to plan for the possibility of an emergency. The Tools and Resources section has useful suggestions and tips for handling emergency situations as well as links to relevant emergency services.

Book Review: Home Lighting Assessment for Clients With Low Vision

Home Lighting Assessment for Clients With Low Vision is concerned with poor home environment lighting levels and how they may contribute to age related vision impairments, such as glaucoma and cataracts.

The authors discuss the need for Occupational Therapists to take a comprehensive approach to home environment assessments, ensuring they consistently include home lighting assessments.

The article presents evidence gleaned from previous American home lighting assessments to suggest that lighting levels are often inadequate in the homes of people who already have vision impairments.

The authors introduce their Home Environment Lighting Assessment (HELA) study which presented a three stage process as follows: Stage 1 was developed and tested with people who have glaucoma, Stage 2 was administered to individuals with macular degeneration, and Stage 3 was designed to determine the reliability of the testing.

The authors discuss the findings of their assessment, concluding that HELA provides a comprehensive and

objective tool for assessment which could be used as an outcome measure for future studies.

Home Lighting Assessment for Clients With Low Vision is a useful article for Occupational Therapists, as it encourages one to consider the home environment in its entirety, in order to improve quality of life and prevent vision deterioration.

Authors: Monica S. Perlmutter, Anjali Bhorade, Mae Gordon, Holly Hollingsworth, Jack E. Engsborg, M. Carolyn Baum

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy

Title: Home lighting assessment for clients with low vision

Year: 2013

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PP. 674-682

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2013.006692>

Events

Department of Social Services (DSS): Aged Care Reform Briefings

DSS's series of Aged Care Reform Briefings are taking place throughout June. The sessions address the aged care reform changes that will be implemented on 1 July 2014, focusing on financial changes.

Visit the [DSS website](#) for the full list of event dates and details.

HammondCare's 2014 International Dementia Conference 2014 -Risky Business 2

Risky Business 2 will take place on June 26 and 27 at the Hilton, Sydney.

The conference will focus on risk from the point of view of all society that dementia poses. It will look at the realities and challenges we face in life when supporting people with dementia.

Registrations close today, June 13.

More information and the official program are available on the [conference website](#).

Home Design for Living: Advanced Home Modifications Workshop

The Advanced Home Modifications Workshop is designed to provide occupational therapists with information on what to consider when tasked with planning a home modification for a private home owner.

This is a hands-on all day workshop taking place on June 26 at LifeTec Qld.

Visit the conference page on the [Home Design for Living](#) website for more information.

NDIS March Webinar: Questions and Responses online

If you missed the March webinar, Women, Disability, the NDIS and the Broader Community, you can locate the questions and responses on their website:

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/document/782>

Publications by HMinfo Team Members

Summary Bulletin: Electrical safety in bathrooms

Joanne Quinn and Catherine Bridge (2014) Summary Bulletin: Electrical Safety in Bathrooms 2nd ed. Sydney: Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Australia. (May) [\[online\]](#). Available from www.homemods.info

Summary Bulletin: Gardening at Home

Carnemolla, P. and Bridge, C. (2014) Summary Bulletin: Gardening at Home [2nd Ed.]. Sydney: Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, University of New South Wales Australia (May) [\[online\]](#). Available from www.homemods.info

Reprinted HMinfo Publications

Available for download from the [Publications by HMinfo](#) page.

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

Staff at HMinfo

A/Professor Catherine Bridge - Director

Dr. Joanne Quinn - Research Associate

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