



The University of Sydney
Faculties of Health Sciences and Architecture
**The Home Modification:
Information Clearinghouse Project**

Advisory Committee Minutes

w w w . h o m e m o d s . i n f o

Meeting of the HM Information Clearinghouse Advisory Committee

13th March 2008

At 2.00 p.m.

J003 Meeting Room,

The Faculty of Health Sciences

University of Sydney

Present

Catherine (Katy) Bridge (Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney)

PH Health on behalf of Claudia Kennedy (DADHC)

Peter Phibbs (Faculty of Architecture, UWS)

Ian Maxwell (Wesley HMMS)

Ruth Jacka (Northside Community Forum Inc.)

Frances Smith replacing Annette Key (Lifetime Care and Support Authority)

Allan Whelan replacing Christine Foran (NSW Department of Housing)

Mark Ellis replacing Anne Reeve (South Coast HMMS now SCOPE Access)

Robyn Chapman replacing Jane Bringolf (Independent Living Centre NSW)

Apologies

Col James (Faculty of Architecture)

Stacey Sheppard-Smith (NSW HMMS State Council)

Sandi Lightfoot Collins (NSW Department of Health)

Chair

Catherine (Katy) Bridge (Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney)

Maree Porter (Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney)

Note taker

Notes

Actions

1. Welcome, introduction & apologies

Katy opened the meeting at 2.00 p.m. Apologies were noted.

Minutes from the last meeting

Minutes were accepted as is, no amendments required.

MP to upload minutes onto website.

3. Clearinghouse update

Webstats:

Katy advised of the following;

- 10,000 visitors since the last meeting
- Heaviest usage is in NSW
- Australia still majority user (69.82%),
- USA (12.38%), UK (3.95%), Canada (2.63%), India (1.22%), NZ (0.74%), Hong Kong (0.57%), Germany (0.49%), Ireland (0.40%), Philippines (0.34%),
- Site has been accessed by users in 57 countries over the last quarter

Katy advised the webstats unique visitors are an important measure indicating how many individual computers have access the site. Since last meeting there have been 10,000 visitors to the site with 70% coming from Australia. There has been an increase in the number of users from USA, Canada, UK and India. Katy attributing this increase from India to collaboration with delegates who attended ICADI Conference.

On usage of resources, Industry and Consumer documents are the most downloaded documents. The website double log-in is now fixed. Feedback is required if members experience difficulty with the website. The website is now on Drupal 5 which will enable greater diversity, including uploading visuals from the website to mobile phones.

The possibility of 'Podcasts' or an 'E-raps' style video clips of information to download, was also discussed. The group agreed that employing actors for creating informative downloadable clips to mobile phones, on the 'how to' of Home Mods, would be beneficial. Focusing on OTs (in partnership with OT Australia), builders (in partnership with HIA & MBA) and consumer direct educational information. IM agreed that OT to builder speak could be aided by a visual aid such as this. It was recommended that users be involved in the development of the themes of the clips.

PP to investigate further and source actors for clips

Systematic Review Updates

A number of systematic reviews are currently in progress. These include;

1. Barriers to Home Modification – now on website
2. Home environmental determinants & Interventions pertaining to aggressive & self injurious behaviour of people with cognitive impairment. – now on website. IM noted the need to use Systematic Reviews in practise.
3. Effectiveness of ceiling hoists during the bed-to-chair transfer. This publication is currently in progress. The aim of the research is to investigate the effectiveness of ceiling hoists over other methods of patient handling, and assist with decision-making of (older) people with disabilities and their carers in relation to

installation of ceiling hoists.

IM noted clients have issues with house devaluation and the installation of ceiling hoists if modifications are required. For many, barriers are not worth the benefit. ME agreed stating that ceiling hoists are not transportable.

YM to send for review when draft complete due April

Hot topic Summaries/occasional papers

Modification or Relocation: Summary Bulletin

Home water management: Summary Bulletin

Grabrail Installation Fact sheet "Looking at installing your own grabrail?"

Hard copies of papers were circulated to committee members for comment at the previous meeting. General consensus was that these are valuable publications.

Katy noted that the topic of Modification or Relocation came from consumer queries to HmlInfo. This paper aims to assist consumers in making informed decisions. The Consumer and Industry Checklists are have been submitted for review.

NG to upload to website after review amendments added.

For sustainability and Home Water Management, there is no consideration of older people or people with disabilities currently with relation to the Government Greenhouse Office. The paper has been peer reviewed but awaiting for Government to approve. Noted major issues for older people are taps, hand-held showering devices and showers with regards to hot water. For some people with disabilities, the installation of a water-saving showerhead could result in hyperthermia and death. PH relayed that managing hot water under the basics is important, such as filters are harder to manage for older people. The group agreed that older people and people with disabilities need to be considered when developing systems of sustainability.

For Grabrails, Committee members relayed problems with incorrect installation, for instance, grabrails are advertised at hardware shops. PH queried the capacity of commercially available grabrails sold to the public? Group noted that this question/issue needs to be investigated. PH and IM noted the need to clarify what the capacity is i.e., 1000 newtons means in lay terms. PH and IM advised to include a clear statement warning to the public "Don't try this at home" on the Grabrail paper. RJ mentioned on the first page the need to seek a qualified builder. RC, PP, IM agreed that a warning needs to be placed on the first page with ME noting a Podcast could be useful to explain the 'Dos and Don't'. A.W suggested on page 7 of the document to give visual examples of the 'correct way' to install a grabrail.

MP to ensure links to publications available on HmlInfo website

Consumer Fact Sheet

YM to work on Consumer fact sheet for Ceiling Hoists when draft

of Systematic Review sent to reviewers.

Suggested hot topics / occasional paper / systemic review / fact sheets

- Further exploration of issues regarding sustainability and the impact on elderly and people with disabilities
- Fencing options; the group discussed options for fencing private and group homes considering access and safety issues of people with dementia, aggressive behaviours or mobility/access issues
- Possibility of HmlInfo reviewing other HACC services such as MOW

Occasional Papers

HACC MDS Draft Report

Hard copies of the report were circulated to committee members for comment at the previous meeting. Various issues arose during the meeting.

KB reported when analysing data, the framework for analysis was the HACC Quality Standards. PH requested a change to the title from "Evaluation" to "Profile" and advised he will read the document and forward feedback. IM queried whether unit costing was included? KB advised, no. PH the project was done around improvement of the MDS data? IM stated there is a difference with the hours vs dollar measures in the collection of data and this can be problematic. KB agreed that there is a difference when doing analysis of services and comparisons across states.

SS and **KB** to work together on MDS and requirements for HMM Services

Events & Training

ILC Training

LM conducted training with ILC. RC noted that staff are using HmlInfo publications and website and passing information onto clients.

ICADI: International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence, February 21-23, 2008 St. Petersburg, FL USA

Katy attended and involved in four papers: 1. Evidence based practise review 2. Mobile phone technology 3. AHURI project Costing Care in the Home for Older Persons 4. Symposium with Asia Pacific delegates on rebuilding tsunami affected areas.

2008 National Housing Conference 20-22 February, Darling Harbour, Sydney

PP attended and presented a paper on Cost Benefits research on housing tenure and cost of care in the home. PP gave a general

Advisory Committee to review and forward feedback within one month

summary of the findings noting there is a relationship between housing tenure and cost of care. For those in private rental, there is a higher cost for care and this is likely to result in earlier institutionalisation.

AW reported that the NSW Department of Housing is developing universal guidelines for modifications and accessibility needs with pilot projects on older people support and design. IM noted that OTs recurring is problem is bureaucracy delaying provision of service.

HACC 2008 Forum, Melbourne 20-22 February

LM attended. Her report as follows:

* liaison with Aboriginal Health Unit in NT - Programme Managers partner is in charge of Indigenous Housing in their area and may be interested in partnering a research project re: Indigenous housing issues, from the paper HMinfo did last year.

* liaison with ACT Health CACP manager who was interested in role of environmental assessment prior to any equipment being prescribed. Email addresses and HMinfo publication list given.

* HMinfo publications lists given out at all forums I attended. We will need to update these and print more as I ran out and people were very interested.

* There was a large Indigenous health contingent from all over Aust so I would be interested to see if the Indigenous housing article has had a lot of hits since the forum.

I-CREATe 2008, 13-15th May, 2008 Bangkok, Thailand

Paper accepted. AC to attend and present paper on behalf of KB. This conference will provide a platform for fostering an Asia Pacific work/collaboration.

ANUHD & PWD International

Possible universal design conference in partnership with ANUHD. RC to follow up regarding participation interest.

Inclusion by Design Conference, Cambridge, & Oxford Brookes for UK/Australia Collaboration on Sustainability and Older People April 2008

KB to follow-up with **CJ** on this

KB to present at CWUAAT Conference and onto Oxford Brookes University to meet with delegates in Architecture Department on a UK/Australia collaboration.

2020 Summit

This topic raised several questions regarding the important issues facing Home Modification and Maintenance. RC 500 word submissions accepted, will Hminfo be submitting anything i.e., on built environments and assistive technology? IM advised we need to carefully look at this as it can raise issues of maintenance and cost of complex computerised maintenance products. RC reported research at UWS on assistive technology and resources, required education of the users/consumer and adapting products to consumer needs, i.e., people with dementia having switchless

sensor lights that can't be turned off.

Other Clearinghouse Projects

My Virtual Home project

Katy gave a summary of the project and the developments to date. My Virtual Home is free software for consumers, the program would enable OTs and builders to interactively communicate the end design outcome in a virtual form as a part of the assessment process. Katy to source options for the creation of a template and CAD drawings.

KB to submit item to 2020 Summit

DADHC Group Homes Design Guidelines Revision

Interviews were conducted with staff and one resident of various group homes along with regulatory review and Post-occupancy Review. Guidelines are in the draft stage, they will affect current Group Home site, construction and deinstitutionalisation. Group Homes (DADHC and NGO services) cater to three groups of clients with varying needs. KB is currently preparing stage two of the research with architects preparing the room specs.

Reverse Mortgages

KB is Chief Investigator on this AHURI funded project due to commence in June, 2008. The University of Sydney Human Ethics Committee application for the project I currently in progress.

Other business

MOU with Home Modification and Maintenance State Council

SSS report developed regarding the testing of grabrails with SSS and KB to apply for funding from i.e., Australian Research Grant or AHURI. MOU to be drafted and discussed by KB & SSS

KB to source funding options

KB to follow-up with **SSS** on this

HmlInfo Clearing House Annual Report

The annual report acquittal is complete and was submitted to DADHC.

Members of Advisory Committee leaving

Frances Smith replacing Annette Keay (Lifetime Care and Support Authority)

Allan Whelan replacing Christine Foran (NSW Department of Housing)

Mark Ellis replacing Anne Reeve (South Coast HMMS now SCOPE Access)

Jordana Goodman replacing Robyn Chapman (Physical Disability Council of New South Wales)

Next Advisory Committee Meeting

The venue for the next meeting is yet to be decided, however the meeting may be held on Thursday the 22nd May 2008 at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney.