



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

## **Advisory Committee Minutes**

**www.homemods.info**

**Meeting of the HM Information Clearinghouse Advisory Committee**

**23<sup>rd</sup> August 2007**

**At 3.00 p.m.**

**J003 Meeting Room,**

**The Faculty of Health Sciences**

**University of Sydney**

### **Present**

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

Claudia Kennedy (DADHC)

Anne Reeve (South Coast HMMS)

Robyn Chapman (Physical Disability Council of NSW)

Ian Maxwell (Wesley HMMS)

Stacey Sheppard-Smith (NSW HMMS State Council)

Col James (Faculty of Architecture)

Melinda Patterson (Council of Social Services)

Steve Malvern (NSW State Wide Home Modification Service)

Annette Keay (Lifetime Care and Support Authority)

Christine Foran replacing Anthony Ciesiolka (Department of Housing)

### **Apologies**

Jane Bringolf (Independent Living Centre of NSW)

Peter Phibbs (Faculty of Architecture, UWS)

Susan Dinley (Department of Veterans Affairs)

Amelia Starr (Disability Council of NSW)

Lisa Langley (COTA NSW)

### **Chair**

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

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

### **Note taker**

*Notes*

*1. Welcome, introduction & apologies*

Katy opened the meeting at 3.00 p.m. Apologies were noted.

Minutes from the last meeting

Minutes were accepted as is, no amendments required.

Melinda Paterson requested that future Minutes and publications for review be photocopied double-sided to save paper.

*Actions*

**MP** to put minutes on website.

**MP** note this in Policy & Procedures for future reference

### 3. Clearinghouse update

Webstats:

Katy advised of the following;

- Spike in hits following the Carex Conference (9-10 May, Sydney) and the State Council One-day workshop (Thursday 26 July, Sydney)
- Heaviest usage is in NSW
- Australia still majority user
- USA, UK and Canada next highest usage now making up 25% of hits
- Site has been accessed by users in 57 countries over the last quarter

Stacey advised New Zealand may also show an increase.

Katy advised the website was down on four occasions and AC3 will arrange a back-up server to prevent this in future. Updates including a more detailed Help function have been activated. Errors continue within the site resulting in users having to log in twice, Lawrence is following up on this. Need users to increase submitting of material to website. The 'submit' process will be simplified and changes made to homepage including more buttons linked to submit forms (Katy presented a hardcopy homepage design example to the group).

Currently the data from the Clearinghouse site and the Webstats data are not correlating. Katy is the process of investigating this.

DADHC is reviewing their website and Melinda enquired whether this review will be publicly available. Claudia advised she will pass on any information to Melinda that is made available regarding the website review.

#### Systematic Review Updates

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

1. Barriers to Home Modification – in progress
2. Home environmental determinants & Interventions pertaining to aggressive & self injurious behaviour of people with cognitive impairment

The review titled "Designing home environment for people with cognitive impairment who display aggressive or self injurious behaviour" is complete. It was submitted for review and we have received feedback from four reviewers.

This paper presented at previous meeting and no further

**CB** is in the process of arranging for site error to be corrected and changes made to Submit function.

**CB** in process of finalising for Committee review.

**LH** to implement review panel amendments

discussion was generated.

### **Hot topic Summaries/occasional papers**

Modification or Relocation: Summary Bulletin

Home water management: Summary Bulletin

Hard copies of papers were circulated to committee members for comment. Katy advised these papers are in draft form and both require rework. The group discussed various issues regarding implementation of modifications and maintenance to gardens, grounds, fencing as well as water recycling and sustainability. General consensus was that these are valuable publications.

Katy requested the Committee review the papers and forward any feedback as to how the publication could be improved to meet their client group.

**Advisory Committee** to review and forward any feedback to **LM**

### **Consumer Fact Sheet**

The reviewed Consumer Fact Sheet on “Arranging Home Modifications” was circulated to the group for comment. The paper will be changed to include services and contacts relevant to each state. The group noted that the wording needs to be modified indicating “some” funding “may” be available. Rework is also required on the “What to Do” and ‘Things to consider” lists. Committee members to submit feedback to Lyndal. Following completion of amendments Lyndal to forward the publication to the consumer panel for review.

**Advisory Committee** to forward feedback to **LM**.

**LM** to amend then forward to the Consumer Panel.

### ***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

**CB & HmlInfo team** to discuss at meeting

### **Occasional Papers**

#### ***HACC MDS Draft Report***

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

KB reported when analysing data, the framework for analysis was the HACC Quality Standards. The MDS data utilised has issues

**Advisory Committee** to review and forward feedback within one month

with data quality and is limited in comparison; for instance Question 1. Modifications were reported in hours while Maintenance was reported in dollars. Ian noted that the HMMS National system was complex and that there were discrepancies in how services were reporting resulting from operated differences and fund capping (Particularly in other States and Territories). Steve noted the current reporting system is problematic as clients may be paying off over time for services received, yet the HACC MDS database does not record this. Anne recommended as there are five different methods used for submitting data, flagging the method of reporting is an issue that should be noted. The group asked Claudia re the potential to negotiate with the Federal Government for inclusion of more detail in reporting system. Claudia stated it was better for DADHC to receive this information via research.

Katy advised that Aboriginal clients present for higher levels of maintenance services but lesser modification services.

Melinda raised concerns about the potential misuse of data in the report, for instance funding access debates between the states. Katy advised the data can be used for population projections and impact on Home Mods services.

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

## Events & Training

***Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology (FICCDAT) June 16 -19, 2007 Toronto, Canada*** – Katy received funding from the Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation to present at the one day symposium on ageing in place organised as a part of this conference. The conference was an opportunity to talk with other service providers in other countries. Feedback confirms that Australian Home Modification and Maintenance services are currently consistent with international best practice and that having a National service delivery system is advantageous. Papers presented on behalf of HmlInfo at the conference included

“Lessons Learned from www.homemods.info” (Bridge & Clark)

“Costing Care in the Home for Older Persons” (Bridge, Phibbs and Cooper)

“A Better Grip on Grabrails” (Oram and Bridge)

“Addressing Information Needs in Housing Design” (Bridge)

Poster presentation titled “Indigenous Australia, Communication and Home Mods” (von Behrens and Bridge)

**MP** to ensure links to publications available on HmlInfo website

## ***State Council Training Day Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2007***

Stacey presented a brief summary of the training day where 291 people attended. Stacey gave feedback from the workshop including a noted lack of training in the Department of Health for O.Ts. One of the options for training was *Telehealth* an option

that has received great feedback from other O.Ts.

### Other Clearinghouse Projects

#### ***Review of Queensland Department of Housing Home Modification Products***

Item complete and delivered to Queensland Housing in June

#### ***Cost-benefit of care for older people in the home project***

Complete and final report is with AHURI for review. Outcomes from the report confirm that care at home is cheaper than institutional care. Katy advised the group will be notified when the final report document is available from the AHURI website for direct download.

#### ***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. The software will be showcased with *Better Homes and Gardens* in September. Katy suggested conducting a controlled pilot using the software in two homes. Katy to see Col regarding the recruitment of Architecture students to perform CAD drawings.

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

#### ***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 to be re-written and will affect current Group Home site, construction and deinstitutionalisation. The literature review will be an important resource and it is to be finalised over the coming weeks. Further discussion with DADHC is pending in regard to extending the project to enable more feedback and input from those living in group homes and their families prior to publishing a revised set of guidelines.

### Other business

***MOU with Home Modification and Maintenance State Council***  
Stacey and Katy to present at the next meeting.

To be discussed at next **HmInfo Team Meeting**

#### ***HmInfo Clearing House Annual Report***

The annual report is complete and we are currently awaiting the acquittal paperwork from DADHC.

#### ***Possible Linkage Grant with Engineering***

The group discussed the possibility of joining forces with the

**KB** to follow-up with

Engineering Faculty and applying for a Linkage Grant to test whether grabrail force standards are correct. The research will test force in any direction used on grabrails in excess of 1100 newtons. Stacy and Katy are to meet to form a committee to discuss the grant in more detail. Next round for grant applications is November.

SSS on this

**Enviro 2 sheeting** (slip resistant recycled material)

***Anne circulated a sample of the material and invited the group to review and discuss the material for useability, for example, can people who shuffle walk on it? Katy advised there is a possibility for non-slippage grant project using this material in collaboration with the timber industry.***

#### ***Members of Advisory Committee leaving***

Melinda Patterson advised that due to workload issues, she would be retiring from her role with the Clearinghouse. Christine Regan advised a replacement for Melinda is currently being sought.

Susan Dinley will be replacing Rebecca Rogers from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Amelia Starr will be replacing Joe Harrison from the Disability Council of NSW.

Christine Foran has replaced Anthony Ciesiolka (Department of Housing).

#### ***Next Advisory Committee Meeting***

The venue for the next meeting is yet to be decided, however the meeting may be held on Thursday the 20th November 2007 at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney.