



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
Committee**

25 November 2004

At 3.00 p.m.

**J Block Meeting Room,
The Faculty of Health Sciences
University of Sydney**

Present

Mr Ian Maxwell (Orange HMMS)
Ms Jane Bringolf (Independent Living Centre of NSW)
Mr Alan Meldrum (NSW Statewide Home Modification Service)
Mr Bob Champion (Health & Community Care Branch, NSW
Department of Health)
Ms Melinda Paterson (HACC Development Officer, Sutherland)
Ms Kamala Jegaraj (Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney)
Ms Catherine Bridge (Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney)

Apologies

Ms Rebecca Rodgers (NSW Department of Veterans Affairs)
Mr Darrell Meredith (Motor Accident Authority)
Ms Anne Reeve (Illawarra HMMS)
Mr Mark Flynn (DADHC)

Chair

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

Note taker

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

Notes

Actions

1 Welcome, introduction & apologies

Peter opened the meeting at 3.00 p.m. He welcomed Melinda Paterson and invited her and all the other committee members to introduce themselves. Apologies were noted.

2 Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of 19 August were accepted as true and accurate record.

3 Clearinghouse update

Website upgrades

Annotated Bibliographic Materials: The search facilities have been improved to assist novice users.

Annotated Weblinks: New links have been added relating to the grabrail review, lifts and thermostatic mixing valves.

HSNet: HSNet approached Katy Bridge to move the HMMInfo website onto their platform rather than having it on the Faculty of Architecture server. The advantages to HMMInfo would be that the system maintenance would be done by HSNet but HMMInfo would be responsible for website content. Peter Phibbs explained that there would be changes to the web address and technical support. Negotiations are currently underway regarding intellectual property. Melinda Paterson stated that there was a lot of cynicism in community services about the Better Service Delivery program being sustainable. Katy Bridge believes the program will receive the required support because too much has been invested in it.

Continue negotiations with HSNet **KB**

Alan commented that the Services sometimes forget their passwords and hence have problems accessing the password-protected areas on the website. Peter Phibbs suggested that an email link be added on the relevant pages to alert HMMInfo administrative staff to the problem.

Melinda Paterson wanted to know how the HMM Services' contact details are kept up-to-date. Peter Phibbs informed her that training was provided to the Services on how to update their contact details. Kamala Jegaraj has been contacting the Services

to ensure that the contact details are up to date on the website.

Webstats

A copy of the webstats summary for the period from 20 August till the 10 November is attached. The number of users has increased since August. Most of the users are from Australia but Great Britain and New Zealand are also big users of the HMMInfo website.

HMM Services Websites

Ian Maxwell informed us that the Orange Community Resource Organisation has recently launched their new website. Kurri Kurri Community Centre will be launching their website soon. Both websites will have a link to the HMMInfo website. Katy Bridge commented that it would be useful to have a link from the HMM Services contact details to the websites of their auspicing bodies.

Melinda Paterson enquired whether a HACC website could be included in a HMM Service website. Katy explained that if the site did not focus specifically on home modifications then it should not be included.

Evidence Based Practice Reviews

The Evidence Based Research on Grabrail Diameter was sent to the Specialist Review Panel and general comments were received saying that it was too academic. There were no comments on the content. Katy reported on the status of the honour's students reviews: A Doorbell in Disguise... Does a Flashing Light Work as an Effective Doorbell?; Slip Resistant Tile Coatings: Are They Suitable for People With Mobility Impairments? Also, both students presented the preliminary findings of their reviews at the OT conference: Transforming Communities.

Make changes to grabrail review **JC**

Ian Maxwell commented that clients are more interested in aesthetics and cleaning of the tiles than in the slip resistant and safety functions. Alan Meldrum suggested that vinyl provides superior slip resistance but this is dependent on the quality of the installation. Jane Bringolf informed us that there is a display of one type of vinyl flooring in the bath area and kitchen at the Independent Living Centre.

The Committee discussed wireless technology and its use as a telephone vibrator distinguishing the door bell from a telephone ring.

Standards Australia

Ian Maxwell reported on the meeting of the 26 October regarding HMM Services' access to Australian Standards via the HMMInfo website. The meeting was attended by Ian Maxwell who represented the State Council, Mark FLYNN from DADHC, Katy Bridge, and Kanesh Kaneshalingam and Bill Iskander both from Standards Australia. Mark is presently negotiating with the Commonwealth Department of Sport Tourism and Industry for free access to the Building Code of Australia package which includes core standards for use by HMM Services. Access to the codes will be password driven and the State Council would be responsible for ensuring that the system is not abused. There is an option to include additional standards to those in the BCA package within the site license agreement. Ian felt that Standards Australia is using this as a marketing opportunity.

Occasional Research Paper

The occasional paper Home Modification Information Needs of Peak Consumer Organisations in NSW is up on the HMMInfo website. One of the interesting issues that was raised at the interviews was modifications relating to noise particularly in the city areas.

Hot Topics

Katy Bridge advised that we would do the hot topics every two months and summarise the information on the topic. Copies of the Thermostatic Mixing Valves: Summary Bulletin was distributed to the Advisory Group. Melinda commented that the Summary Bulletin could be used to encourage the HMM Services to visit the listserv.

Katy Bridge informed us that there were discrepancies in legislation particularly in New South Wales regarding thermostatic mixing valves. For people with disabilities, lowering the temperature too much can be life threatening, resulting in, for example, hyperthermia or spasms.

Katy Bridge asked for comments relating to the format of the Summary Bulletin. Melinda suggested that the layout should be in profile rather than landscape. The Committee agreed on the change.

The next hot topic will be on lifts.

4 Clearinghouse Projects

Sensor Research Project

Peter Phibbs informed the Group that the Baptist Church, which is very interested in 'intelligent homes', would like to participate in the sensor pilot project. Both parties are interested in securing a research grant in the 2005 round of ARC Linkage grants.

Continue negotiation **PP**

Timber Slip Resistant project

Katy Bridge informed us that she is trying to organize a meeting with forestry organisations. Gatton, in Queensland, has done some slip resistance testing in timber and have indicated that they would like to be a linkage grant partner.

Liaise with Gatton
KB

CHSD/ONI Environmental Extension

Katy explained the role of the CHSD (Centre for Health Services Development) based at the University of Wollongong, and its potential collaboration with HMMInfo regarding the environmental component in ONI (Ongoing Needs Identification). The ONI assessment tool is currently being considered for replacing CIARR (Client Information and Referral Record).

MBA Builder Training Proposal

The Master Builders Association is interested in developing a certified course that could count towards building accreditation. The course would potentially increase the pool of preferred builders.

Systematic Review for ME064 on Spatial Affordance of Bathrooms

At the last Adaptable Housing Working Group for Standards meeting, the committee requested that HMMInfo complete a systematic review on spatial affordance in bathrooms. This would mean asking the question: How big should a universal adaptable bathroom be and why? Katy Bridge informed the Working Group that the review would cost them seven thousand dollars.

Accessible Housing Tender

The Australian Building Codes Board is retendering the project on universal housing design. This would involve looking at the housing market in terms of how accessible houses are being built, where are they being built and what companies are building them. HMMInfo was asked to put in a submission. Katy asked the Advisory Committee to comment on how this will impact on home modifications in general and if we are put in for this tender how

will it advantage the HMM Services sector? Alan Meldrum commented that it would have a long term benefit not a short term one. Melinda Paterson added that if it is going to have an impact on housing standards then it would benefit home modifications. The Committee decided to look at the tender first before making any decision.

Arrange to get a copy of the tender
KB

5 Other business

Future meetings

It was agreed that future advisory committee meetings continue to be held quarterly. The meetings for 2005 are scheduled for the 3rd week in February, May, August and November 2005. The Advisory Group gave a vote of thanks to Bob Champion who will be retiring at the end of the year. Katy Bridge was congratulated on being promoted to senior lecturer.

Inform Advisory Committee members
KJ

Next Advisory Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 24 February 2005 at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Sydney. Meeting closed at 4.45 p.m.

Appendix 1

WebStats Summary

1.1 Data Summary for period from August 20th till November 10th 2004

727 Visitors since August 20th this year

Average 37 unique visitors a day to the website



3564 page views

- 318 average daily page views.
- 91 average page views per hour

94% visitors from Australia, other countries include United States, Great Britain and New Zealand.

95 Website referrals from three main search engines; Google (90.52%), Ninemsn (4.22%), Yahoo (3.16%), and Netscape (1.05%).

1.2 Referring WebPages

<http://www.ot.fhs.usyd.edu.au/projects.htm> (24) OLS

<http://search.usyd.edu.au/search/search.cgi> (6) University of Sydney search pages

<http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/databases/occupation.html> (4) University of Sydney Library

<http://www.nrahs.nsw.gov.au/support/index.php> (2) Northern Rivers Area Health Service

http://www.clininfo.health.nsw.gov.au/Allied_Health (2) Clinical Information Access Program (CIAP) Allied health

<http://www.cca.org.au/content.asp> (1) Novita Childrens Services SA – Disability Services Links.

http://www.rsdg.com.au/home_maintenance.html (1) Regional Social Development Group

1.3 Listserve Statistics

25 New Postings

Registered users: 124 (101 old)

New Users: 23

Conferences: 6

- Access and Egress: 16 (5 new)
- General: 22 (10 new)
- Grab rails and Handrails: 16 (2 new)

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- Legislation, Building Codes and Australian Standards: 5 (0 new)
 - Changing hot water systems to reduce scalding: 5 (5 new)
 - Flooring and ground surfaces 2 (2 new)