



**The University of Sydney**

Faculties of Health Sciences and Architecture

**The Home Modification:  
Information Clearinghouse Project**

# Annual Report 2005 - 2006

**Prepared by:**

**The Home Modification Information  
Clearinghouse Project Team**

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**The University of Sydney**



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# 1 Introduction



**A NSW Home modification and maintenance service in action!**



## 1.1 What is the Home Modification Information Clearinghouse?

The Home Modification Information (HMinfo) Clearinghouse is a web-based facility providing information on home modification services, in order to create safe and enabling living environments for frail older people, people with disabilities and their carers. The HMinfo Clearinghouse is a project of Sydney University that came into existence in May 2002. It is managed by two Directors from the disciplines of Occupational Therapy and Architecture and staffed by an editor, librarian and research officers, who are employed with recurrent funding from the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program and the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC).

The idea for a clearinghouse, to collate, analyse and disseminate information about home modification, arose from a review of the Home Modification and Maintenance Program by the then NSW Ageing and Disability Department in 1998.

Home modification demand is set to increase, as population projections indicate that by 2051 the older population will have expanded to approximately 6.3 million<sup>1</sup>, or around one-quarter (24%-26%), of the total population of Australia.

In order to fill the information vacuum that had existed on home modification, the Home Modification and Maintenance Information Clearinghouse, as it was originally called, established a central repository for information about the range of HACC-funded home modification services and methodologies; for creating accessible and functional houses for frail older people, people with disabilities, and their carers (the HACC target group).

The HMinfo Clearinghouse provides both a process and a tool for networking and information sharing through the website located at [www.homemods.info](http://www.homemods.info). It features a growing series of on-line publications produced by the HMinfo Clearinghouse staff, from materials submitted by student researchers and expert home modification practitioners. The list of available online materials includes:

- Annotated web links: An edited collection of international and national websites containing information relevant to home modification and maintenance decisions. Examples include the US Adaptive Access website and the Access Consultants Association of Australia site.
- Annotated bibliographic materials: An edited collection of articles, books, CDs and other reference materials that can be searched using our indexed lists, or by an open search.
- Evidence Based Practice Reviews: Research publications by the HMinfo Clearinghouse team that are based on a systematic review methodology, each with accompanying Industry and Consumer Factsheets.
- Occasional Research Papers: Research publications produced by the HMinfo Clearinghouse team that are based on methodologies other than systematic reviews.

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004

- Summary Bulletins: These are hot topics that have been identified by the HMinfo Clearinghouse's Advisory Committee, or from the Forum section of the website, that include articles on items such as thermostatic mixing valves and other small research topics.
- Case Studies, featuring design schematics and photos.
- Upcoming training available to home modification service providers.
- A quarterly newsletter: The newsletter usually includes a website review, a book review, a list of upcoming events/trainings, new publications and research, and often a general article relating to issues around disability and home modifications, or topical research that the HMinfo Clearinghouse is undertaking.

The HMinfo Clearinghouse aims to share ideas and explore opportunities to facilitate enabling environments in all areas of living: from personal spaces in the home to public spaces at school, work and in urban planning generally. Recent contracts include:

- A Pilot of 'MyVirtualHome', using commercial home design software to design and outfit home modifications for the HACC target group.
- Development of design standards for group homes for NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care.
- A cost benefit analysis of ageing at home, for the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.
- A review of home modification services for the Queensland Department of Housing.

The HMinfo Clearinghouse welcomes enquiries from government and non-government organisations seeking research or consultancy work.

## 1.2 HMinfo Clearinghouse's Objectives

- To build information and knowledge capacity within the residential construction sector in order to improve standard home design, and to provide evidence for the effectiveness of special features to improve the living environments of aged and/or people with disabilities and their carers.
- To develop a leading edge Home Modification Information Clearinghouse that will be accessible to the full range of industry and consumer target groups.
- To value add to the current home and community care work focussing on home modification across NSW.

## 1.3 HMinfo Clearinghouse's principal areas of activity

- To promote successful and innovative housing models for older people and people with disabilities amongst the building and development industry.
- To develop and pilot on-line Factsheets detailing best practice principles for assessment and the setting of priorities for the home modification services.
- To promote the benefits and products of home modification and adaptable housing to the broader community through mainstream media.
- To share information at State and Regional industry forums and liaise with peak regional providers and consumers.
- To ensure that there are effective links between home modification service providers and consumers.

## 2 Structure of the HMinfo Clearinghouse



**Ramped access to the backdoor of a private home.**



## 2.1 Staff

### Directors:



Dr Catherine Bridge is academic within the Discipline of Occupational Therapy, at the University of Sydney. She also leads the 'Environments for positive ageing' research group within the Faculty of Health Sciences. Prior to becoming an Academic, Catherine was involved in piloting and writing the guidelines for the NSW Home and Community Care (HACC) Higher Level Home Modification program at its inception in 1988. Catherine has provided advice and consultancy to housing and health departments in a number of Australian States and has an international reputation for knowledge of environmental interventions for aged and disabled persons.



Professor Peter Phibbs is the inaugural Chair of the Urban Research Program at the University of Western Sydney. A review he completed in 1999 of home modification services for the NSW Department responsible for Home and Community Care (HACC) raised the issue of the importance of knowledge development and information sharing in this area. Subsequently he helped establish, with Catherine Bridge, the HMinfo Clearinghouse at the University of Sydney. Peter has been engaged in a variety of research projects in the areas of home modification.

### Research Librarian:



Katrina Chaudhary is a research librarian. She has worked for the HMinfo Clearinghouse for nearly two years. She has a bachelor's degree in library & information science. Her areas of expertise include best practice systematic searches in the areas of ageing and disability.

### Research Assistants:



Lara Oram is an occupational therapist who has been employed as a part-time researcher for two years with the HMinfo Clearinghouse. She also works part-time for the Independent Living Centre NSW and has previous experience in paediatric occupational therapy.



Lisa Hodges is a research assistant. She has worked for the HMinfo Clearinghouse for nearly two years. During this time she has been involved in systematic reviews, occasional papers, the administration of a large grant application, attending conferences, writing for the newsletter and maintaining the website. She holds an honours degree in psychology and is interested in environmental psychology.



Tanja von Behrens has been working predominantly on the website and administrative aspects of the HMinfo Clearinghouse, including research, and increasing public knowledge of the site and its resources. Tanja has worked for HMinfo Clearinghouse for a year, and has a bachelor of arts in psychology and studies in religion from the University of Sydney.



Stephanie Mathews has worked as a research assistant for the HMinfo Clearinghouse for two years editing documents for publication on the website. Her background is in law, and she taught research and writing at a U.S. law school.

#### **Web Consultant:**



Andrew Clark originally trained as an occupational therapist. He has worked as a Home and Community Care disability service provider within government and non-government organisations. He has a long interest in the use of information technology in the community care sector and received a Churchill Scholarship in 1993 to investigate the use of computer-mediated communications for NGOs. Andrew's work with the HMinfo Clearinghouse involves collaborating with the web programmer to maximise the site's functionality and content management systems.

#### **Web Programmer:**



Gordon Heydon is a Drupal web developer and has been working with the HMinfo Clearinghouse for the last fourteen months. His background is in utility billing, warehouse management, e-commerce and content management systems for the web.

## 2.2 Advisory Committee

The HMinfo Clearinghouse Advisory Committee represents a wide cross-section of stakeholders, including representatives from government, consumer and peak disability groups.



Jane Bringolf is CEO of the Independent Living Centre NSW and has a background spanning more than twenty-five years in the community sector in various roles and organisations. She has degrees in social science and management and is a Churchill Fellow. Jane is an inaugural member of the HMinfo Clearinghouse Committee.



Robyn Chapman graduated and worked as a physiotherapist within the private, not-for-profit and public sectors before moving into management roles within the not-for-profit, disability sector. In these roles Robyn developed an understanding of the need for universal environments that enable people barrier-free lives, even as their life needs change. This led to an interest in systemic advocacy as a tool for community development and her current role as executive officer at The Physical Disability Council of NSW.



Tony is currently a Principal Policy Analyst in the Product Strategy and Development Unit at the NSW Department of Housing. This unit has responsibility for a range of client priorities, including social housing assistance programs that support people with a disability. Tony has worked in the Community Care sector for a number of years in a non-government organisation, has managed the Inner City Live at Home Community Options Project and worked in DADHC as both a disability program and policy manager. Tony represents the NSW Department of Housing on the HM Information Clearinghouse Project Advisory Committee.



Judy Harwood is the Manager of Program Policy for the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, where she has responsibility for administration and policy for the Home and Community Care program in NSW. Judy has worked across a diverse spectrum of human service and social justice fields including: aged, disability, employment and education. She has a keen interest in social justice environments. Judy holds degrees in education, multiculturalism, and social policy and research.



Joseph Harrison works as a research officer with the Disability Council of NSW, the official adviser to the NSW government on issues affecting people with disabilities and their families. He has been on the HMinfo Advisory Committee for two years and has personal experience of the home modification service: his home having been modified, and he has a strong commitment to universal housing design.



Colin James AM, has a particular interest in housing for the aged and disadvantaged. A senior lecturer in the Faculty of Architecture, he has directed the Ian Buchanan Fell Housing Research Centre at the University of Sydney for many years. He is a member of various housing advisory committees, and has previously been seconded to State and Commonwealth departments to work on housing matters.



Lisa Langley has a social work degree and a background in social policy and planning. She is currently studying for a Master's degree in Policy Studies at the University of New South Wales. After returning to Australia from living and raising a family in the United States, Lisa worked in policy and program development for Centacare; then as Manager of Policy and Research, for the Asthma Foundation of New South Wales. She is currently the State Policy Officer for the Council on the Ageing (NSW).



Steve Malvern is the Project Manager for the Level 3 NSW Statewide Home Modification Service. Level 3 covers all major modification work over \$20,000. He has worked in the industry for the past four years and enjoys being able to assist people to remain living at home.



Ian Maxwell is a foundation member of the HMinfo Clearinghouse advisory team. A licensed builder with thirty years experience: fifteen of which has been in the home modification sector. Ian has worked in rural and remote, as well as metropolitan contexts. He served on the Home Modification and Maintenance State Council from 2004 to 2006 and currently works for the Wesley Home Modification and Maintenance Service.



Darrell Meredith has over seventeen years of social welfare experience in both community and hospital settings. His work has mainly focused on the areas of traumatic injury and community rehabilitation. He is currently a coordinator for the Lifetime Care and Support Authority. Recently he has been involved in an initiative of the Motor Accidents Authority and Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care to undertake a 'whole of government' project to assist people with a newly acquired spinal cord injury, living in NSW.



Melinda Paterson is the HACC Development Officer in Sutherland Shire and represents the Council of Social Service of NSW and the NSW HACC Issues Forum on this committee. Melinda has worked for the Home and Community Care Program for over ten years, first on a statewide project looking at the use of HACC services by people with disabilities and in her current role supporting HACC-funded organisations since 1998. Melinda is a wheelchair user and has been a client of the Home Modification Scheme. She joined the committee in 2005.



Anne Reeve joined the HMinfo Clearinghouse Advisory Committee in 2002. She has over twenty years experience in middle and senior management within NGOs including: community broadcasting, community access theatre, theatre for youth, community legal centres and nine years with HACC funded home modification and maintenance service (HMMS) provision. Anne served for over six years as a NSW HMMS State Council representative for the Southern Region and is General Manager of South Coast Home Modification & Maintenance Services Ltd.



Rebecca Rogers has represented The Department of Veteran's Affairs NSW (DVA) on the Advisory Committee since 2002. For the past twelve years she has been a state advisor to DVA, providing advice and training to OTs on home modification. She has also worked as a trainer/presenter for the OT association. Rebecca is a current member of the ME64 Australian Standards committee on Access. Rebecca's interest in home modification commenced while managing a community housing scheme and working with architects on the design of special units and houses for disabled youth, for the Department of Housing. Her pet hate is STAIRS.



Stacey Sheppard Smith is the executive officer of the NSW Home Modification Maintenance Service State Council, the peak organisation for the home modification and maintenance industry in the State. Stacey has worked in the HACCC Program for more than twelve years and particularly enjoys community work, as it enables her to help people enhance their lives. She has been a member of the HMinfo Clearinghouse Advisory Committee since 2005.

## 2.3 Specialist Review Panels

There are sixteen members in total on the HMinfo Clearinghouse's Specialist Review Panels. Members participate in the Research, Industry or Consumer Panel, depending on their expertise. The Panels provide advice on the Evidence Based Practice Reviews produced by the HMinfo Clearinghouse team. The review process ensures that the documents prepared by the HMinfo Clearinghouse are technically accurate, while maintaining document readability and relevance to the target audience.

### Research Panel

Lindy Clemson, University of Sydney  
Desleigh De Jonge, University of Queensland  
Stephen Harfield, University of Technology, Sydney  
Lisel O'Dwyer, Flinders University  
Karen Roberts, Caulfield General Medical Practice

### Industry Panel

Beverley Garlick, Royal Australian Inst. of Architects, NSW  
Jean Halcrow, Australian Assoc. of Occupational Therapists  
Sandra Lightfoot-Collins, Macarthur HMMS  
Peter Meredith, Master Builder's Assoc., NSW  
Keith Stevenson, Auburn, Holroyd, Parramatta HMM Service

### Consumer Panel

Jane Bryce, Guide Dogs, NSW  
Sue Egan, Physical Disabilities Council of Australia  
Robyn Jones, Independent Living Centre  
Glen Redmayne, Marrickville Council  
Gayle Richards, Council on the Ageing, NSW  
Irene Truscott, Deafness Forum of Australia

## 3 Director's Report



**An outdoor handrail with a smooth finish.**



## Executive Summary

The 2005/2006 year has been one of excitement and challenges for the HMinfo team. As this report will demonstrate, the activities undertaken reflect not only the general acceptance of the Clearinghouse as a resource and tool by its users but also the commitment and dedication of the team and those who supported the development and maintenance of the project.

The Strategic Plan's key tasks for the year were daunting; however, as each task was commenced and moved forward, the team momentum sped along with it. The results speak for themselves. I am particularly proud of the Research and Publications list. It demonstrates the quality of professional writing that can be achieved when the topics are focused and have specialist review panels available for critique and support.

The launch of the website at the 14th Congress of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists in 2006 afforded the Clearinghouse international exposure. Feedback during the week from Congress delegates was positive and encouraging, keeping all the team members on duty busy each day.

The relationships and networks that have been built over the past twelve months have fostered a positive relationship between the HMinfo team and those agencies on whom consumers rely to support their community independence. I anticipate these relationships will continue to develop and provide further scope for the HMinfo team and the Clearinghouse's activities.

Finally, the role of the Clearinghouse service in training and education has shown itself to be an important component for our consumers and an area for further development.

The Annual Report is the culmination of a lot of hard work by many people; I urge you to read the acknowledgement section at the end of this report, as all these people deserve to be recognised for their role.

Dr Catherine Bridge  
Director

# 4 HMinfo Clearinghouse Strategic Plan



**A handrail at the back step of a private home.**



The HMinfo Clearinghouse had a number of key areas for development in 2005-2006. These avenues were developed in a number of ways, with the website providing a key avenue for the gathering of information, and communication with the public and the Home Modification and Maintenance Schemes.

The key tasks for development of the Clearinghouse over the 05-06 period included;

- Launch of the new website in July 2006, after a process whereby a number of Content Management Systems were reviewed, a relationship with HSNet - an online service provider - was developed, and a website usability survey was conducted to establish the kinds of developments and changes necessary to the site.
- Branding of the service and the outputs of the website and the Clearinghouse in general, by the production of publications, newsletters, mail-outs, web information, workshops and other associated outputs. Advertising led to a direct increase in the number of hits on the HMinfo site, and content downloads.
- Undertaking cross-agency work through the website, web-links, online community care information, discussion with other services and work with other community housing organisations such as AHURI.
- Dissemination of information via the website, newsletters, online publication of bulletins and information, constant updating of publications and news items on site.
- End user involvement through website, newsletters, online surveys, registration, case study submission and forums section.
- End user feedback section.
- Relationships with the Home Modification Service Providers - online listing of the services helps in the maintenance of contact with the services.
- Increased education about accessible design - advertising of events and training on the website allows accessible design to be more widely publicised.
- The Advisory Group is a major source of feedback and information on behalf of service providers and industry specialists. The advisory group is regularly consulted re: arising issues and
- Clearinghouse operation, and would have been the source of many ideas regarding the progress of the Clearinghouse in 2005-2006.
- Events and training - engaging in as many events and training as possible, to allow the Clearinghouse and knowledge of the Clearinghouse's research to permeate through the community.

- Purchasing of equipment relating to the HMinfo Clearinghouse, including a scanner, printer, adobe acrobat software, and other computer software.

## 5 Activities



**An example of a standard virtual bathroom from the MyVirtualHome software. This HMinfo Clearinghouse project aims to incorporate universal features into the software.**



## 5.1 Research & Publications

### **DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR DEMENTIA DAY CARE CENTRES**

*C Bridge, L. Hodges, K Chaudhary*

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADCH) commissioned a project that would produce a set of design guidelines to be used in the design of dementia day care centres across NSW. This project involved the completion of a systematic review of the current findings in world literature relating to the optimum design of dementia day care centres and merging the findings into principles compatible with building codes and legislation relevant to NSW. The project is still ongoing. A presentation was made to the DADCH Regional Area Personnel in February 2007 and a presentation at the International Conference on Inclusive Design is to take place in April 2007. *An Occasional Research Paper. Start date: August 2005. Published: July 2006.*

### **HOME FIRE SAFETY & EGRESS**

*L. Oram*

This bulletin discusses the considerations for fire safety within the home and specifically addresses egress concerns for people with disabilities. It provides information on evacuation planning, automatic door closers and openers and other safety products. It has a checklist for therapists and supplier contacts.

*An Occasional Research Paper. Start date: August 2005. Published: September 2005. .*

### **HOME MODIFICATION & MAINTENANCE INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE WEBSITE USABILITY SURVEY: SUMMARY REPORT**

*C. Bridge*

A summary report of a usability survey conducted by the HMinfo Clearinghouse to ask users about their modification and adaptation information needs: in order to improve housing outcomes for older persons, carers and/or people with disabilities. This was an initiative to assist in upgrading the HMinfo Clearinghouse website. The report found that there is a huge need for home modification information, despite many individuals and organisations having a variety of existing strategies in place. Of those using the website, they reported that its value has increased over time. Nevertheless feedback indicated that the amount of time required to submit information and fully explore the website was problematic, because its design was unclear, and that the information needs of different stakeholders had to be better addressed. The new website design was based on the outcomes of this survey.

*An Occasional Research Paper. Start date: October 2005. Published: October 2005.*

### **HOME MODIFICATIONS FOR CHILDREN**

*L. Oram*

This bulletin tackles issues around prescribing home modifications for children. It lists the significant Australian Standards to consider, factors relevant to carers, anthropometric considerations and adjustable products and supplier details.

*An Occasional Research Paper. Start date: May 2005. Published: July 2005.*

## **LEGALITIES OF THE AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS & ALTERNATIVE ACCESS SOLUTIONS TO RAMPING**

*L. Oram*

This bulletin tackles issues around adhering to the Australian Standards when designing for private homes. It refers to the research behind the standards and legal implications, and provides examples of alternative access solutions to ramping. Case studies, a checklist for therapists and useful contacts are also provided.

*An Occasional Research Paper. Start date: April 2006. Published: May 2006.*

## **LIGHTING YOUR WAY INTO HOME MODIFICATION**

*M. Pitch & C. Bridge*

A review of publications relevant to the appropriate use of wayfinding lighting for people with visual impairments: to enable safe, independent mobility. A major finding was the importance of contrast. The results concluded that a low level of illumination was sufficient for a lighting system to enable safe mobility, provided that the lighting system created a high contrast with the background environment. This paper was presented at the 2006 ICADI conference in Florida.

*An Evidence Based Practice Review. Start date: May 2005. Published: November 2005.*

## **SELECTING COATINGS FOR TILED FLOORS**

*K. Whitfield, C. Bridge & S. Matthews*

To determine the occupational risk and safety factors surrounding the prescription of coating products to improve the slip resistance of glazed tile surfaces, particularly bathroom surfaces within the homes of persons with mobility impairment. While no empirical evidence was found to demonstrate that surface coatings reduced the frequency of falls, product testimonials suggested that coatings reduce fall frequency. Chemical coatings and abrasive coatings that contain domestic grade aluminium oxide or synthetic particles had the most information in support of their effectiveness.

*An Evidence Based Practice Review. Start date: June 2004. Published: November 2005.*

## **SELECTING DIAMETERS FOR GRABRAILS**

*L. Oram, J. Cameron & C. Bridge*

To determine the suitability of grabrails with a 25mm outside diameter for supporting older people in their homes. Research found that while Australian Standard 1428.1 recommends a grabrail outside diameter of 30-40mm, this dimension might not be appropriate for all people. Grabrail design should reflect the needs of the individual, intended activity and specific environmental context.

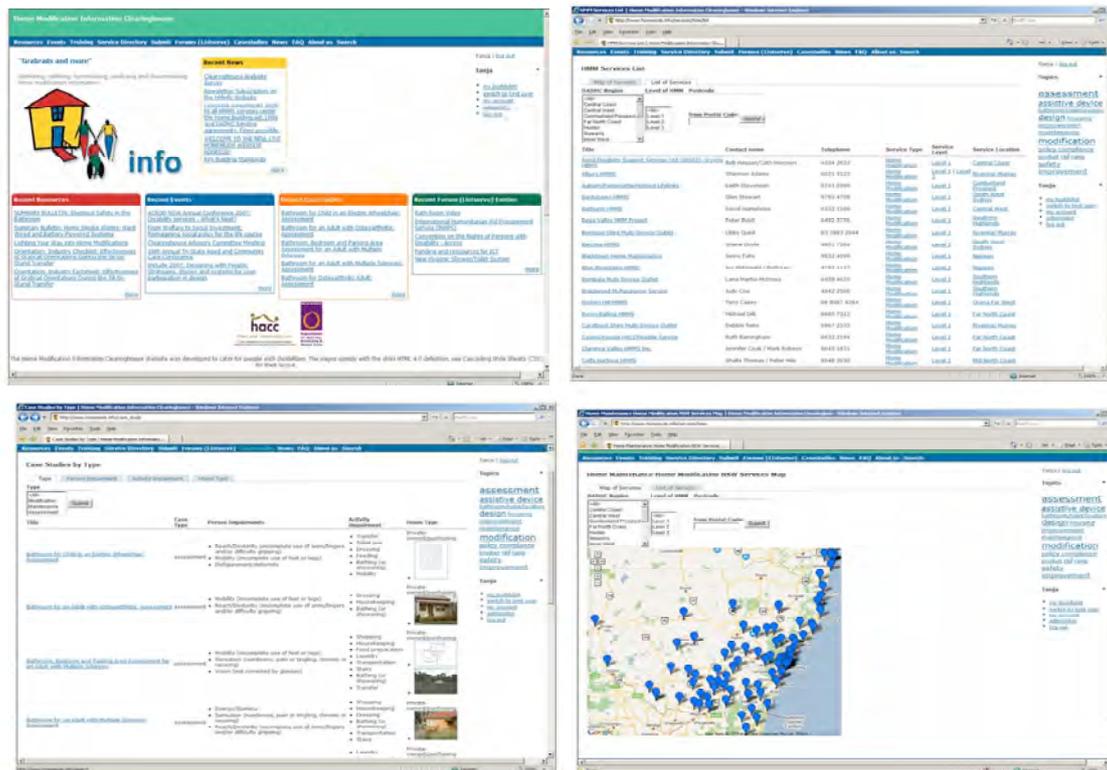
*An Evidence Based Practice Review. Start date: April 2005. Published: January 2006.*

## **SELECTING DOORBELLS FOR PEOPLE WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT**

*F. Lee, C. Bridge & S. Matthews*

To investigate the effectiveness of visual signalling devices, as alternatives to doorbells, in the homes of people with severe or profound deafness. Visual signalling devices may be useful alternatives to auditory doorbells for people who are deaf, particularly when used with other assistive devices. Receiver type; colour; intensity and placement; consumer co-morbidity and preferences; and environmental conditions appear to affect effectiveness, but empirical research is needed to guide best practice.

*An Evidence Based Practice Review. Start Date: August 2005. Published: June 2006.*



Snapshots from HMinfo Clearinghouse's new website

## 5.2 Website

The HMinfo Clearinghouse website is the principal means by which the Clearinghouse is able to disseminate information and research to the public. It was launched in June 2003 and was created to fill an information gap that had existed on home modification for older persons, people with disabilities and their carers. The website was also intended to advertise NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care funded home modification and maintenance services.

The website targets home modification service providers, builders, occupational and other therapists, trades people and general consumers.

The objectives of the website include helping to facilitate: multidisciplinary professional cooperation and understanding; consumer understanding and engagement; discussion about practice questions and sharing of innovations; the reduction and duplication of effort by enabling the sharing of forms and policy and procedures; the identification and targeting of gaps in information and the provision of better policy access, evaluation and development.

In late 2005, the HMinfo Clearinghouse conducted a usability survey which found a need to make the website more user-friendly and that ongoing promotion was needed to increase the site's profile.

On 25 July 2006 the new HMinfo Clearinghouse website was officially launched by Minister John Della Bosca at the 2006 World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) Conference in Sydney.

The new website, which was designed in Drupal, is an open source website programming initiative that allows onsite interaction using the newer mobile communication technologies such as G3 phones. This platform enables users to make e-referrals, look-up services electronically and

upload and download publications, pictures, video and text to the website.

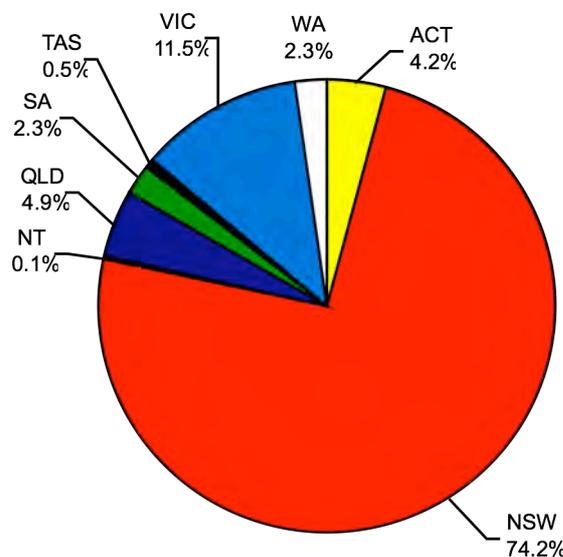
As part of the re-launch, the site lost one “M”, and is now known as the Home Modification Information (HMinfo) Clearinghouse, rather than the Home Modification and Maintenance Information (HMMInfo) Clearinghouse.

When the website went through the process of re-design, the layout of pages, formatting of tool and menu bars and the way information is displayed changed quite dramatically. New features have been added which have increased the level of contact that we have had with home modification services and the number of users to the site. Home modification services can now update their contact details and upload information. To facilitate use, a website users manual is in the process of being produced.

Promotion of the website is being undertaken in order to encourage increased access. Advertising letters have been sent out to a range of organisations, including local government, councils and other community groups. This publicity has increased the number of people registering, and the number of hits the site has received.

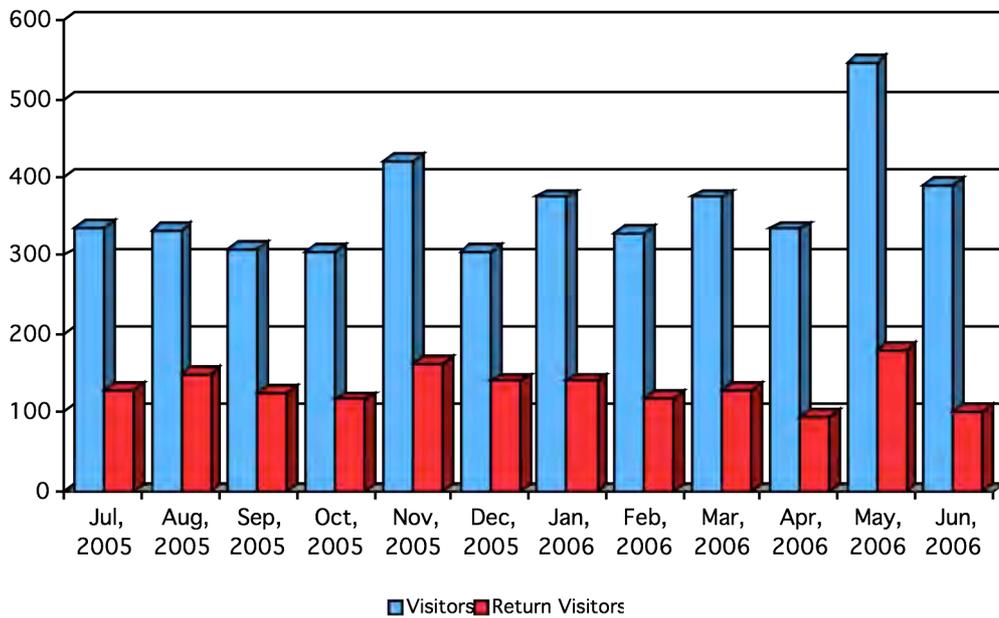
Currently, 74.2% of the Australian hits are from NSW. Of the remainder, 11.5% are from Victoria, with Queensland and the ACT attracting over 4% each.

**Figure 1: State Breakdown of website visitors**



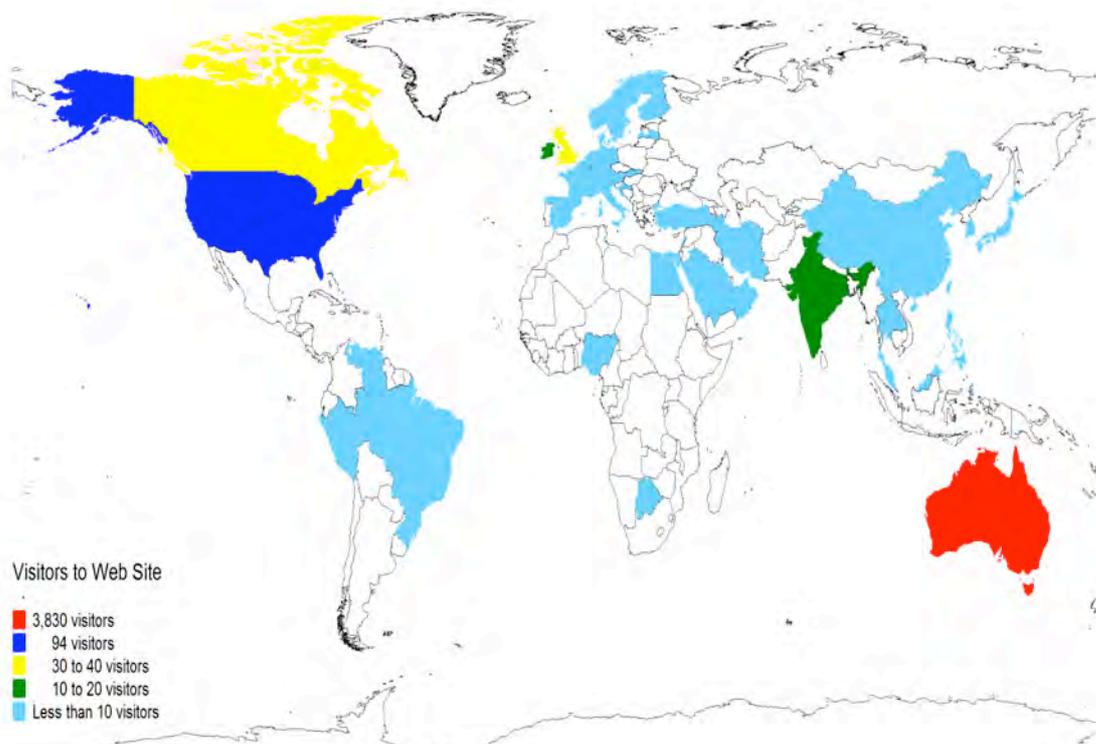
During the period July 2005 to June 2006, the average number of monthly visitors to the website was 363. A peak of 547 visitors came to the site in May. Thirty-six per cent of visitors return to the site each month. This indicates that the website is proving to be a useful ongoing resource for our target groups.

**Figure 2: Website monthly visitors (new and returning), July 2005 - June 2006**



In regard to global usage: statistics show that after Australia, the website is receiving the greatest number of hits from the United States, followed by Canada.

**Figure 3: International website visitors, July 2005 – June 2006**





**HMinfo Clearinghouse team launching their new website at the World Federation of Occupational Therapists Conference, in Sydney 2006**

## 5.3 Events

July 2005

*Children's Hospital at Westmead.*

Home Modifications for Kids workshop.

October 2005

*Seminar held by the Independent Living Centre, Master Builders Association & the Building Designers Association.*

Dr Catherine Bridge presented.

November 2005

*Ageing in My Place Symposium.*

A presentation on research, policy and practice in helping older people stay in their own homes longer, by using injury prevention techniques to help them truly age in place.

November 2005

*Children's Hospital at Westmead.*

Home Modifications for Kids workshop.

February 2006

*International Conference on Ageing, Disability & Independence.*

A presentation titled 'Lighting Your Way Into Home Modifications'.

February 2005

*People in Place, The first International Symposium on Environment, Behaviour and Society.*  
A presentation on the principles for dementia day care design.

May 2006

*Northcott Society.*

An in-service for occupational therapists on home modification information for children.

May 2006

*International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies: From Theory to Applications.*

Dr Catherine Bridge presented.

## 6 Financial Report



**An example of a bathroom grabrail, doubling as a towel rail.**



## Financial Report

The disclosures in this section have been derived from the Financial Report for the year ending 30 June 2006. A duly signed copy of the Financial Report was forwarded to the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care on 3 November 2006.

### **Recurrent funding**

*Income:* the HMinfo Clearinghouse Project was granted \$61,972 in recurrent funding for the financial year 2005/06. There was no carry forward from the previous financial year.

*Expenditure:* The full grant was spent on salaries for general staff; there was no carry forward into 2006/07.

### **Non-recurrent funding**

*Income:* non-recurrent funding totalled \$312,547 during 2005/06, which together with the allowed carry forward from 2004/5 of \$23,516, totalled \$336,063.

*Expenditure:* Total expenditure of \$185,377, for other operating costs, was spent over the year 2005/6 (i.e. salaries and miscellaneous items such as minor equipment, stationary and contractor payments). An amount of \$150,685 that was unable to be spent before 30 June 2006, will be carried forward into the year 2006/7. The reason for the carry forward was that the money was not received until June 2006.

I certify that this report has been prepared with the University's accounting practices and procedures and reflects the transactions as recorded in the University's general ledger.

Sam Aquilina  
Faculty Accountant  
The University of Sydney

# 7 Thank you



The beginning of a home lift installation, by a NSW home modification and maintenance service.



## Acknowledgements and Thanks

Our grateful thanks to the University of Sydney the sponsor of the HMinfo Clearinghouse.



**The University of Sydney**

The NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and the Commonwealth Home and Community Care Program jointly fund the HMinfo Clearinghouse. The project team gratefully acknowledges the financial and other support it has received from this joint Commonwealth and State funding.



Many thanks also to all the following people and organisations that provided valuable advice, expertise and feedback on various HMinfo Clearinghouse Evidence Based Research and Occasional Papers:

- Marcelle Alam, Independent Living Centre, NSW
- Pauline Armour & Robyn Helm, Chantal Day and Respite Centre
- Dierk von Behrens
- Ian Carmody, Con-Serv Cooperation Australia
- John Paul Cenzato, Health Sciences librarian, University of Sydney
- Todd Chapman, Clipsal Australia
- Tom Cooper, Ku-ring-gai Council
- David Feather and team, IDEA Center, School of Architecture & Planning, State University of Buffalo, NY
- Tim Fisher, Enware, NSW
- Maureen Fitzgerald, medical anthropologist
- Ray Hallatt, Master Plumbers Association of NSW
- Gordon Herbert, Electrical Safety Office
- Charles Hoare, Manager, Electrical Installation Safety, Office of the Technical Regulator
- Col James, Director, Ian Buchan Fell Housing Research Centre, University of Sydney
- Warrick Langham, Greens Tapware Australia
- Paul Lawrence, Master Builders Association of NSW
- Adele Lubiana, Leonie Nixon and Larry Johnson, Broughton House
- Inspector Gary McKinnon, NSW Fire Brigade
- Sharon Merritt, technical officer, Fire Protection Australia
- Gavin Oram, fire consultant, Fire Evolution
- Paul Pholeros, Director, Health Habitat
- Grahame Quinlan, Goori Homemods
- Garry Sloane, indigenous liaison officer, Life Tec, Queensland
- Alan Stillwell, Housing Industry Australia
- Michael Small, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
- May Smith, occupational therapist, Department of Housing, Queensland
- Jim Smith, Assistant Director, Community & Corporate Risk Management, NSW Fire Brigade
- Richard Smith, Associate Professor, School of Exercise & Sports Science, University of Sydney
- John Stolk, Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector
- Bryce Tolliday, Automated Disability Access Systems
- Julie Wakeman, occupational therapist, Independent Living Centre, NSW
- Gary Wells, Australian Automatic Door Industry Forum
- Michael Whipps, Dormic

## 8 Glossary

DADHC	Department of Ageing, Disability & Home Care
DVA	Department of Veteran's Affairs
HACC	Home & Community Care
HMMS	Home Modification and Maintenance Service
HMinfo Clearinghouse	Home Modification Information Clearinghouse
OT	Occupational Therapist
WFOT	World Federation of Occupational Therapists

**The Home Modification Information Clearinghouse**  
PO Box 170, Lidcombe, NSW, 1825  
Phone: 612 9351-9215, Fax: 612 9351-9197,  
Email: [hminfo@fhs.usyd.edu.au](mailto:hminfo@fhs.usyd.edu.au)  
[www.homemods.info](http://www.homemods.info)