



Home Modification Information Clearinghouse

Never Stand Still

Built Environment

Newsletter

Edition 49 | 16th October 2018



From the Editor

Welcome to the fourth instalment of the HMinfo Newsletter for 2018. Welcome to the fourth instalment of the HMinfo Newsletter for 2018.

This spring season has commenced with a heavy downpour, which is a welcome relief for the dry environment and farmlands. However, slips and falls of older people and people with disabilities, are much more frequent when the ground or floor surfaces are wet and slippery. Unsuitable flooring materials and inappropriate footwear are the main causes for slips. There are a number of HMinfo resources that include information about how to transform your home into a safe, slip resistant environment, few of which are the [Industry Factsheet: Slip Resistance of Ramps](#) and the respective [Summary Bulletin: Slip Resistant Floor Surfaces](#), as well as the more recent [Summary Bulletin: Ramps](#).

Since our previous newsletter, we have been busy completing the research on lighting for people with reduced vision (the new publication will be available within October), as well as improving the functionalities and features of our HMinfo website. We are working towards the implementation of a responsive website design for smart phones which is expected to go 'live' by the end of October 2018.

Key updates will include:

- Service Directory layout and navigation changes aimed at improving usability;
- Simple search forms to reduce interface complexity (current search forms will be placed under an Advanced Search interface);
- Accessibility Options page;
- Compatibility updates for legacy browsers (e.g. Internet Explorer 8).

It was my great pleasure to participate in the eighth annual Workshop of the [Greater China Australia Dialogue on Public Administration](#), at Shanghai Jiao Tong University on 27-29 September 2018. This year's workshop theme was 'Urban Governance' and in this context I was asked to address how best to include vulnerable peoples in urban policy and practice.

Finally, an important development in the field of accessible housing is the new ABCB Options Paper that is currently open for consultation. The Options Paper was requested by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and the Building Ministers' Forum (BMF), in order to consider options that might represent minimum and proportionate standards, as well as the costs and benefits for accessible housing. The community input will help ABCB to form a formal Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) on the subject.

The HMinfo team is currently studying the material and preparing feedback on the Options Paper and will keep you informed on our views through our HMinfo website and the next newsletter, which will be towards the end of the year. For more information on the Accessible Housing Options Paper and the ways you can submit your feedback, you can visit the [ABCB website](#).

Home Modification Resources

Book/Journal paper review - Models of Disability and Human Rights: Informing the Improvement of Built Environment Accessibility for People with Disability at Neighborhood Scale?

This paper by M. A. Jackson, published in the journal *Laws*, investigates whether "an understanding of models of disability and human rights can inform the improvement of built environment accessibility at a neighborhood scale".

Neighborhoods are areas serving many functions, from residing and circulation to entertaining. However, in many countries around the world, people with disabilities have to face inappropriate passageways and obstacles that make traveling around their neighborhoods difficult or even dangerous. The author claims the reasons for the poorly designed neighborhood environment to be the little understanding environment practitioners and policy makers have on the accessibility needs of people with disabilities, as well as their ignorance of the diversity of the conditions under the broad term "disability".

The paper gives a list of the recognized models of disability that could provide guidance to accessible neighborhood design and Australian and International human rights and accessibility legislation. It also makes a review of the accessibility assessment tools that have been created by research teams around the world.

The author argues that built environment practitioners should try to explore and satisfy the accessibility needs of people with disability by engaging directly with them, as simply complying with the related legislation has resulted in poorly designed spaces.

[Jackson, M.A. Models of Disability and Human Rights: Informing the Improvement of Built Environment Accessibility for People with Disability at Neighborhood Scale? *Laws* 2018, 7, 10.](#)

Article review - Neurodiverse people and their experiences of the built environment

Maximilienne Whitby is a UNSW Built Environment PhD student, focusing her research on how to improve the experience of neurodiverse people in the built environment.

People with neurodiverse diagnoses such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Bipolar, Depression, Anxiety, Borderline Personality Disorder and Dyslexia often experience environments in different ways and might get confused, irritated or frustrated by environmental parameters and spaces. The needs of these groups of people are almost always ignored by designers.

Maximilienne's work aims to identify the needs of neurodiverse people, explore the barriers they face in the built environment and give directions or suggestions on how spaces could make them feel safe and comfortable.

Maximilienne's PhD study is supervised by Hminfo director, Professor C. Bridge.

You can find more information on Max's work [here](#).

Website review - <https://wheeleasey.org/>

Wheeleasey.org is a mobile friendly website where you can find information on the accessibility of areas, venues, businesses and other facilities. It is based on information from people who have visited and recorded the accessibility of areas and reported back to WheelEasy. The website provides information and very practical maps showing the type of attraction, for example museum, restaurant, park, promenade and whether this place is accessible, partly accessible or inaccessible.

Wheeleasey.org is an initiative of the [WheelEasy Foundation](#).

Website report - Older Australia at a glance (5th ed.)

This report, published by the [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#), is an update of the 2007 fourth edition, providing insights on topics related to Australians older than 65 (or indigenous Australians over 50 years old). The report includes recent demographics, socio-economic information and health related data. Only a few facts taken from this interesting and informative report, are:

- Around 15% of Australians are aged 65 and over;
- Australians now enjoy one of the highest life expectancies in the world;
- In 2016, 5% of the Indigenous population are aged 65 and over compared with 16% of the non-Indigenous population;
- In 2016, 5% of older Australians reported speaking another language and English only poorly and around 1% did not speak English at all;
- In 2016, two-thirds (66%) of older Australians lived in major cities;
- Over the last decade, the number of older homeless people increased by 49%;
- In January 2018, Australians aged 65 and over had a workforce participation rate of 13%, compared with 8% in 2006;
- 1 in 5 Australians aged 65 and over experienced disability in the form of a severe or profound core activity limitation.

For analytical information and more data access the full report [here](#).

Events

Forum - Accessible Housing National Consultation Forums 2018

Accessible housing is any housing that includes features to enable use by people either with a disability or transitioning through their life stages.

The ABCB will be holding morning consultation forums in each capital city. These forums, commencing in October 2018, will provide an opportunity for attendees to have their say on accessible housing in-person, and have questions directly answered by representatives of the ABCB.

The forums will focus on the ABCB's Accessible Housing Options Paper, which will be released in advance of the consultation forums.

All forums will be free to attend, although booking is essential - [book now!](#)

Please visit the [website](#) for more information.

[For more details about this event, click here.](#)

Conference - ITAC 2018 Co-designing our digital future

The ITAC 2018 organising committee invites you to participate at the ITAC 2018 conference to be held 21st & 22nd November 2018 at the Adelaide Convention Centre. The theme of the conference - Co-Designing our Digital Future emphasises the importance of assistive technology supporting service quality and independence.

The conference will bring together the best IT leaders from Australia and the globe across the fields of community care, medication management, assistive technologies and offsite information systems delivery. These critical aged care topics will be discussed from a practical perspective, highlighting the information we need to know now to better manage and design aged care service delivery which will deliver on the evolving environment of enhanced consumer choice.

TAC 2018 will provide key content and opportunities for individuals and organisations with an interest in the aged care sector. National experts will present on a range of topics related to the conference theme. Presentations will also focus on the broad business and strategic issues facing an industry dealing with multiple challenges in an environment of substantial reform.

[For more details about this event, click here.](#)

Conference - LASA National Congress 2018

As dawn breaks on the third decade of the 21st century, a new ageing landscape is emerging in Australia. This era of transformation will be one of embracing disruptive innovation as the new normal, reimagining the built and virtual environments, championing thoughtleadership at every opportunity, and negotiating the dynamic boundaries of ageing well. Driven by connected consumers and supported by an empowered workforce, this new era of ageing transformed will require next level leadership characterised by agile age service providers, able to reframe our industry, influence its trajectory and respond to ever-evolving models of care. LASA will lead the ageing transformed conversation at this year's LASA National Congress 2018, where through a series of interactive discussions we will shine that 'first light' on the ageing transformed terrain of new era thinking, practices and models of age services for the next generation and beyond.

[For more details about this event, click here.](#)

Conference - Assistive Technology Conference

The theme of this conference organised by the Australian Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association (ARATA) is Experiences, Opportunities and Innovations. It allows focus on the expertise of assistive technology users, prescribers, developers and suppliers as well as the opportunities and innovations occurring in the field of AT in Australia.

Keynote speakers include associate professor Duncan Babbage, director of the Centre for eHealth, Auckland University of Technology; Alastair McEwin, Disability Discrimination Commissioner; Graeme Innes, past Disability Discrimination Commissioner and associate professor Lisa O'Brien OT at Monash University.

[For more details about this event, click here.](#)

HMinfo Team



Professor Catherine Bridge - Director
Hamish MacLennan - Adjunct Associate Professor
Konstantina Vasilakopoulou - Research Associate
Vincent D'cruz - Research Program Administrator
Helmut Hoss - Website Developer

Any suggestions or feedback you may have on our newsletter would be greatly appreciated, so please feel free to contact us at hminfo@unsw.edu.au. To unsubscribe from future HMinfo newsletters, please click [unsubscribe](#).

www.homemods.info



Australian Government
Department of Social Services



Family &
Community Services
Ageing, Disability & Home Care



Copyright © 2019 UNSW Built Environment. Authorised by Built Environment UNSW.