



## Meeting Minutes

### HMinfo Advisory Committee Meeting

19 March 2024

3pm

Teams

### Welcome, Introduction, Attendance & Apologies

Konstantina Vasilakopoulou opened the meeting at 3.00pm.

#### Attending via Zoom

Prof Catherine Bridge (CB)	Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo)
Susan Dinley (SD)	Occupational Therapy Australia (OTA)
Annette Hanly (AH)	SCOPE Home Access
Deborah Hammond (DH)	Occupational Therapy Australia (OTA)
Douglas McDonald (DM)	National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)
Peter Minogue (PM)	3 Bridges Community
Nicholas Loder (NL)	NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC)
Kelley Temple (KT)	The Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN)

#### Apologies

Melissa Decker (MD)	Forward Ability Support
Matthew Hilder (MH)	Wesley Mission
Greg Killeen (GK)	Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA)
Serena Ovens (SO)	Assistive Technologies Suppliers Australia
Anthony Ryan (AR)	Young Care (YC)
Irene Stein (IS)	National Seniors Australia (NSA)
Frank Riggio (FR)	A1 Building Solutions NSW

#### Chair - Minute Taker

Konstantina Vasilakopoulou Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo)

## 1. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

Action

### 1.1 Approval of Minutes from 14 December 2023

Minutes were approved by the Committee members.

### 1.2 Follow up actions from 14 December 2023 meeting:

- PM could help with finding experts for reviewing or adding material for lifts. Completed
- DH encouraged KV to contact members of the Australian Standards committee on lifts to review the Bulletin. Completed
- NL to send the list of codes LAHC is using for retrofits. Completed
- KV to send link of the interview/ piece. Completed

### 1.3 Membership & staff updates

Jonathan Levy (Department of Veterans' Affairs) has withdrawn from the Hminfo Advisory committee

## 2. HMinfo Website

### 2.1 HMinfo Website Report

Action

The Advisory Committee members were informed of HMinfo website visibility in period since last meeting. This included:

- Location of main audience (primarily NSW, VIC, QLD, WA, SA and some US States)
- Users since 8/12/23: 6.4K (new users: 6.2K)

### 2.2 HMinfo Website Development

#### Google Analytics:

Due to Google's decision to delete historic analytics data in July 2024, and the significant amount of HMinfo data residing on Google Analytics, it was necessary to develop an automated method for downloading and archiving the data. The automated method was finalised and was used to archive the data efficiently and accurately.

#### DOIs generation & Drupal upgrade:

For the next few months, emphasis will be placed on completing the migration from ANDS to DataCite for the purpose of generating DOIs, as well as finalising the Drupal upgrade.

### 3. Publications and Research Activities

#### 3.1 HMinfo Publications

#### Action

##### Recent

- Consumer Factsheet: Staying safe during a flood.

##### Future

- Summary Bulletin: Home Lifts
- Consumer Factsheet: Staying safe during a heatwave

##### Suggestions

- Home modifications in heritage-listed homes: Focus on one type of building (e.g., NSW terrace house) and describe 3-4 main types of modifications. One case study would be ideal.

City councils to provide examples on how they deal with modifications. NL highlighted the problem of sticking to AS1428 for private houses, even though it is intended for public access.

#### 3.2 Other Activities

- Letter to Bill Shorten to ask for funding to expand the audience of our research to include people with disability.

DM said the NDIS review take much of the time and energy in the agency. He cannot comment on the agency research priorities.

KT reported on PDCN's experience of lack of clarity and communication on the priorities and consultation with consumers from NDIS.

- CHSP has requested the unspent funds from 2022-2023 back.
- HMinfo to apply for an ad hoc grant opportunity to add to our budget.
- HMinfo participated at the UNSW Future Health Expo on 14.03.'24.

#### 4. Reports from Committee Members

#### Actions

##### SD

- Highlighted the need for consistent training of OTs. OTA is currently providing OT training on environmental home modifications. Suggested HMinfo contacted OTA for funding so that HMinfo provides the training material.

##### KT

- Key areas of focus for PDCN: 1. Co-chairing the Building Better Homes campaign in NSW with main focus on the adoption of the Silver Level Liveable Housing Design Standards in the NCC. 2. Renters' rights to home mods and conversing with the rental commissioner.

##### DM

- Senior leadership changes in NDIA.
- NDIS review recommendations the main focus currently.
- Procurement process review for home mods in SDA.
- Budget prices review for minor home mods.
- Social community housing space

##### PM

- CHSP providers do not collaborate much.
- NDIS: The requests and approvals for major home mods has slowed down compared to last year. Ots requests for home mods are down as well.
- Ots/coordinators and people are not aware of the available providers/services. There is a need for promotion.

KV to send link to PM for ready-made timber ramps.

##### NL

- Updating documents on home mods.
- New maintenance processes/app are developed.
- New CEO.

##### DH & SD

- OT interest group meeting. Interested in a presentation about the Clearinghouse.
- The importance of the OT recommendations accuracy in the NDIS space was mentioned. The participants' preferences can be mentioned separately.
- OT Australia are looking at how home mods are treated in the various courses around Australia.

#### Close

KV closed the meeting at 4.30 pm.

**Next Advisory Committee Meeting 13 June 2024**