



→ Welcome

In this regular Newsletter we discuss issues of relevance and interest to those engaged in developing the built environment to support better healthcare delivery and indeed, improved health outcomes for the Australian and New Zealand community. You will find that this Newsletter is changing to reflect the new, expanded CHAA.

In late 2008 CHAA became the home of the Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo) program & its various research projects, which were previously hosted by the University of Sydney. This has increased our research capacity substantially, although we also continue to focus on our ongoing main body of work – the Australasian Health Facility Guidelines.

Highlights

→ The World Around Us

Times continue to be turbulent at a global level and of course our part of the world is not immune to many of the current troubles. The recent swine flu epidemic has certainly brought home to us how connected we are with the rest of the world, if the global finance crisis (GFC) had not already done so! As we all know, our healthcare system is also undergoing rapid change, in response to many triggers including changing governments and priorities.

In the near future, stand by for the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHC) to release its final report to the Australian Minister for Health, Hon Nicola Roxon, which is due in June 2009. Over 300 submissions were received in response to its interim report released in December 2008. Many of us hope that the final report will place greater emphasis on the need for improved physical healthcare infrastructure which is, as we all know, essential for the delivery of high quality healthcare to our community including those in rural and remote areas.

At State level, many of the Australian States have recently

released their budgets which have allocated their funding for health infrastructure projects over the next year. Thus it is becoming clearer which projects may be coming up in various locations around Australia. So far, in Australia, it still seems that the design and construction industry focussing on healthcare remains more resilient than many other specialised sectors – but for how long, it may be difficult to say!

→ Centre Highlights

A few highlights of the Centre's work over the last few months include:

- Release of Version 3.0 of the Australasian Health Facility Guidelines (AusHFG) at the end of May, 2009.
- Agreement reached with the Australasian Health Infrastructure Alliance (AHIA) in regard to a new and revised development process for the AusHFG which will commence from 1 July 2009. This includes a revised development program for the remainder of 2009 and for 2010 (see over for more details).
- Confirmation of HMinfo funding for 2009-2011 and success in winning additional AHURI funding.

- A successful display at the Falls Prevention Forum at UNSW on 17 June, 2009.

- Successful call for early bird registrations, and the ongoing preparation for the jointly hosted ACHSE-CHAA Congress being held on the Gold Coast, Queensland from 4-8 August, 2009. 2nd Round Early Bird rates expire Friday 17 July, 2009: www.achse.org.au

→ Changes in Centre Personnel

Times move on...as do people!

For those of you who have contacted the Centre over the last 4 years, Miriam Burgess was a familiar public face. Miriam has left us to join University of Sydney and we now have Nico Wanandy stepping into her hard-to-fill shoes. So please join us in welcoming Nico to CHAA – he will be responding to general enquiries to CHAA (or passing these on as appropriate to other CHAA staff).

We are still seeking an experienced project manager for the AusHFG project, so if you or anybody you know may be interested, please [contact us](#) (see over for more details).

→ Australasian Health Facility Guidelines Project

→ Seeking Project Manager for AusHFG

As many of you know, Patrick Chu departed CHAA for 'greener pastures' at the end of May. His parting gesture was the release of Revision v3.0 of the Australasian Health Facility Guidelines (AusHFG) and we acknowledge his efforts in achieving this. Unfortunately we now have a large hole to fill in our team!

If you are seeking a challenge, a high profile role, experience working in an academic research environment, and would like to contribute to the ongoing improvement of our health facilities, please contact us here at CHAA by email CHAA.Admin@unsw.edu.au

More information is available on the Jobs@UNSW webpage.

Version 3.0 of the AusHFG was released on 25 May, 2009 and has been adopted by all jurisdictions. Previous Amendments were incorporated into the new version as follows:

- REVISION v2.0 - Amendment No.1 dated 10 March 2008
- REVISION v2.0 - Amendment No.2 dated 1 April 2008
- REVISION v2.0 - Amendment No.3 dated 30 April 2009
- RECENTLY APPROVED HPU - HPU Radiation Oncology Unit was integrated into Version 3 although it had already been published on 4 Feb 2008 under Part B section as a 'Recently Approved HPU'.

New Information added in this version:

- 2 x new Health Planning Units (HPUs):
 - Admission Unit (130)
 - Front of House Unit (430)

Updated documents were:

- Part A - Introduction and Instructions for Use
- 119 Standard Components

PROGRAM FOR 2009

Finalisation of 2008/2009 program

The AusHFG program for 2009 continues to finalise the 2008/2009 program elements developed using the 'old' methodology as follows:

- PET and Nuclear Medicine HPUs - planned publication date of 31 August, 2009.
- Part C - Design for Access, Mobility, OHS and Security - planned publication date of 31 August, 2009.
- Part D - Infection Prevention and Control - planned publication date of 31 August, 2009.
- 134 Adult Mental Health Acute Inpatient Unit - revision - planned publication date 31 August, 2009.
- 340 Inpatient Accommodation Unit, 520 Operating Unit, both revisions are in advanced stages of review with no agreed publication date.
- New HPU - Coronary Care, Cardiac Investigation and Rehabilitation Inpatient Units - are under review with no agreed publication date.

Commencing in July 2009 under the 'new' development process are the following sections:

1. 440 Medical Imaging (Revision)
2. 510 Maternity Unit (Revision)
3. 350 Multipurpose Services Unit (Revision)
4. 132 Child and Adolescent Mental Health (Revision)
5. Older Adult Mental Health (Acute) - (New)

In 2010 the following program has been agreed with AHIA:

1. Non-Acute Mental Health (New)
2. Mental Health Intensive Care Unit (New)
3. Medical Assessment Planning Unit MAPU (New)
4. 360 Intensive Care Unit including PICU - General (Revision)
5. 620 Renal Dialysis Unit (Revision)
6. 300 Emergency (Revision)
7. 390 NICU / Special Care Nursery (Revision)
8. 540 Paediatric / Adolescent Inpatient Unit (Revision)
9. 255 Community Health (Revision)
10. 155 Ambulatory Care (Revision)

→ Book of the month

'Sustainable Healthcare Architecture' by Robin Guenther, Gail Vittori, John Wiley & Sons Inc, 2008. Many pictures, case studies and interesting essays on the subject of making our healthcare facilities environmentally sustainable in a book that is both interesting and provocative. Perhaps one day we may be able to offer an Australian/ New Zealand version showcasing the best of the work in this part of the world?

→ Bookmark of the month

Look out for the Australasian Medical Journal (AMJ) - Effective Medicine featuring Design + Health, October 2009 edition. This special issue will showcase methods and processes that apply design thinking for effective health care services and products. www.amj.net.au





→ ACHSE-CHAA CONGRESS

We are now in the final stages of planning for the ACHSE-CHAA Congress being held on the Gold Coast 4-7 August 2009. The program is shaping up very well and will showcase research and case studies of relevance to all of our CHAA.Net membership.

CHAA.Net members are eligible for the 2nd Round Early Bird rate of \$1,115. This rate expires Friday 17 July, 2009 so we urge you to register if you have not already done so www.achse.org.au

The Congress will be a mix of industry and academic research presentations and is structured around the themes of:

1. Building People (Leadership and Management)
2. Building Services/Systems (Health Information and Knowledge Management, Performance and Quality Management)
3. Building Infrastructure (Process Issues/Stakeholder Management and Evaluation)

Confirmed speakers include *International Keynote* speaker R Brooke Hollis, Executive

Director, Sloan Program in Health Administration, Cornell University talking on the topic of 'Building Bridges between Infrastructure and People'.

Building Infrastructure Theme

Dr Kate Bishop, Researcher and Design Consultant, talking on the topic of her PhD thesis – 'What is a child-friendly hospital environment from children's and young people's perspective?'

Kaethe Burt-O'Dea, Health Design Research Consultant, Ireland, talking on the topic of 'One week in Radiotherapy: designing research to support the development of sustainable healthcare design strategies'.

Yanai Elbaz, McGill University Health Centre, Canada, talking on 'New trends in hospital design: the McGill University Health Centre'.

And many more interesting speakers and topics from Australia, New Zealand and overseas.

CHAA will also be presenting its work and the work of its sponsors at a trade stall at the Congress. So

make sure you drop by and say hello!

Also make sure you attend the Special Seminar on the evening of Wed 5 August that CHAA and Polyflor are co-hosting which will look at the issues that have driven the development of the NSW Health *TS7 Floor Coverings for Healthcare Buildings* and how to balance these in choosing floor finishes for health facilities.

The Congress is the perfect opportunity to network with health administrators, clinicians and fellow building design professionals from around Australia and New Zealand. The multi-disciplinary nature of this Congress is an experiment with the potential to generate useful interactions and discussions between all those involved in designing, managing and working within our health facilities. This can only generate useful outcomes – so please support us by supporting this initiative.

We look forward to seeing you on the Gold Coast this August!

Out and About

GREEN HOSPITALS CONFERENCE, 20-21 May

Jane Carthey chaired the Day Two Workshop of the Green Hospital Conference held in Melbourne. Issues addressed included sustainable strategies, building standards and the impact of climate change on healthcare facilities.

WA INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, 10 June

The Australian Institute of Architects - Western Australia Chapter - Health Architecture

Committee held a workshop on the State Government's capital works program for health facilities. Jane was invited to provide an overview of the Australasian Health Facility Guidelines.

SMH Interview, 16 June

Jane was interviewed by the Sydney Morning Herald's Leonie Lamont regarding evidence based design in healthcare facilities and the measurable influence the physical environment can have on hospital patients and staff.

→ Upcoming CHAA Event

Stand by for further information regarding an upcoming CHAA seminar in July 2009 with Professor James Barlow from Imperial College, London and leader of the [Health and Care Infrastructure Research and Innovation Centre \(HaCIRIC\)](#) in the United Kingdom.

"HaCIRIC's focus is on the underlying built and technical infrastructure for health and social care, and the interaction between this infrastructure and change and innovation in care services.

HaCIRIC is a collaboration between existing research centres at Imperial College London and the Universities of Loughborough, Reading and Salford.

Additional partners from other universities, industry and the care system are involved in specific research projects.

Together this represents a resource valued at more than £10m, of which £7.2m consists of EPSRC support and £2.9m is from the four existing research centres."

[Click here for CHAA's events page.](#)

→ Health Facilities Planning & Design Summit, Sydney

For the 12th year running, this two-day conference will bring together designers, architects, builders, engineers, health workers, project managers and contractors to discuss evolving trends and current issues in health facility planning and design. CHAA members are offered a 10% discount. 22-23 September 2009. [Click here for more information.](#)



→ HMinfo Video released via YouTube

→ HMinfo Team News

The Clearinghouse has had some staff movements, with Dr Maree Porter moving onto new challenges elsewhere and Mr Yong-Moon Jung taking time out to go Korea for some data collection and focus group work as part of his ongoing PhD research. He is now back in the Clearinghouse and finalising an evidence based review on ceiling hoists, and undertaking some work on ageing in place in Australia.

HMinfo has been successful in attaining funding for further research into Aboriginal Housing issues, a cost benefit of ramps and lifts, ramps - their installation and best practice guidelines for prescription, and other projects around the use of virtual design technology in home modifications, universal design principles in gardening and other outdoor community environments, and further investigation into developing the evidence base for home modification prescription competencies.

A/Prof Catherine Bridge is heading overseas to the XIXth Congress of Gerontology & Geriatrics in Paris, France, 5- July. There is a growing consensus that population ageing is not necessarily contributing to economic decline. The selected theme: "longevity, health and wealth" aspires to illustrate this change in attitude vis-à-vis a global phenomenon of unparalleled scale. Catherine will join the top representatives from all branches of this expanding discipline to present work from HMinfo.

"Off the Rails" is a tongue in cheek video about the real problems experienced by consumers, families, therapists and builders in resolving small scale home modification problems. It uses humour to get across a very real message about the benefits of credible information, sound communication practices and good teamwork between all the players.

Getting good information about home modification interventions is now just a mouse click away thanks to the establishment of

the Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo) at www.homemods.info

The Home Modification Information Clearinghouse gratefully acknowledges the Home and Community Care Program (a joint initiative of the Commonwealth and the State of NSW) who fund our research and this video. We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Prof Peter Phibbs, UWS. Peter's energy and that of his family and friends made this video possible.



Off the Rails - PART 1
Off the Rails - PART 2

→ Big News for Victoria.

The Brumby Government will introduce a package of measures to encourage Victorians to *Build for Life*.

A new community awareness campaign and regulatory measures will allow one in five Victorians who have a disability or are over the age of 60 to build accessible features into new homes.

A draft regulatory impact statement will be released for public comment later in the year and will investigate implementing minimum mandatory requirements for accessible features into Victoria's building regulations:

- A clear path from the street to a level entry;
- Wider doorways and halls;
- A toilet suitable for people with limited mobility on entry level;
- Reinforced bathroom walls so grab rails can be fitted inexpensively if they are needed in the future.

Planning Minister Justin Madden stated that "a well designed house with accessible features means it can meet the changing needs of families, from raising small children, to aging parents or people living with a disability.

The *Build for Life* awareness campaign will inform builders, designers and consumers of accessible design elements to be built into new homes.

The Brumby Government is also taking action to boost the supply of accessible housing by consulting on the proposed regulatory impact that will consider mandatory accessibility features for all new homes."

The *Build for Life* awareness campaign includes a website with design ideas to create an accessible home and consumer and industry publications and resources.

Click here for more information www.buildforlife.com.au



→ Accessible Buildings Training, Aug 09

The training is based on three competencies from the Access Consulting section of the Property Development and Management Training Package:

- PRDAC401A Apply disability awareness to assessing access situations
- PRDAC403A Assess construction plans
- PRDAC503A - Apply building codes and standards to accessible large scale buildings.

Members of the **Master Builders Association of NSW** who gain the Statement of Attainment are eligible to apply to be a qualified building access expert and receive 50 CPD points.

Members of the **Building Designers Association of NSW** should contact the Association for detailed information on professional development benefits associated with this training.

*For registration information, click here
The Independent Living Centre, NSW*

→ NSW HACC Conference 09

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and the Aged & Community Services Association of NSW will jointly hold the 2009 NSW HACC & Community Care Conference on 25 & 26 August, 2009 at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour.

The Conference Theme is: Connecting Our Community - Working with Consumers in a Changing Environment.

The conference organizers are currently putting out the call for papers - if interested, [click here](#) for more information.

→ Home Modifications for Sustainable Rural Communities.

Recently, emphasis on home modification has been supported in health care practice as it can play an important role in health care through injury prevention, particularly among older people.

Despite the benefits, home modification is not promoted within the rural health care system. Rural home modification in Australia has been largely neglected as an important area for research.

This study aims to identify policy issues for a wider application of home modification. While the Home and Community Care Minimum Dataset unit record files (HACC MDS) made available to the Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo) by the Commonwealth for the years 2001-2006 was the main source of information on the actual conditions of rural home modification, all available published data was analysed to attempt to build a more complete picture of rural home modification in Australia.

Rural residents have higher needs but more barriers for home

modification than urban residents. Rural housing was seen to have more risk factors of injury due to more housing defects and deferred repairs. However the rural housing market has endowed its occupants less motivation to spend money on maintenance or renovation.

In addition, and more importantly, home ownership significantly decreases with remoteness, which was regarded as a structural obstacle for wider use of home modification in rural area. Solutions to the discrepancy between needs of home modification and the capacities of rural communities are not likely in short term.

This seems to be because the inadequate provision of home modification is not merely the matter of supply of increased human and material resources. More comprehensive solution can be found through shared perception among policy makers, home modification service providers, and consumers about the role of home modification in sustainable rural communities.

By Yong-Moon Jung





Featured publications

CHAA publications include refereed journal articles, refereed conference papers, research papers, project reports and conference and seminar presentations.

The CHAA featured publication is by Carthey, Chandra & Loosemore, *Adapting Australian Health Facilities to Cope with Climate-Related Extreme Weather Events* in the special issue, *Journal of Facilities Management*, Vol.7, No.1, 2009. To view, visit CHAA's Published Works webpage.

HMinfo evidence based review publications are based on a systematic review methodology and include consumer and industry factsheets and checklists. The occasional research papers are based on methodologies other than systematic reviews.

The featured HMinfo publication is by Jung & Bridge, *The Effectiveness of Ceiling Hoists in Transferring People with Disabilities*, Evidence Based Research Papers. To view, visit HMinfo's Publications webpage.



The last word

Our thanks for the ongoing support of all our sponsors from the Australasian Health Infrastructure Alliance (AHIA) jurisdictions Department of Ageing, Disability & Home Care (DADHC), Home and Community Care (HACC) and our UNSW sponsors, especially those in the Faculty of the Built Environment (FBE).

I look forward to seeing many of you at our conference on the Gold Coast in August and at other industry events over the next few months.

Information regarding our upcoming events is emailed regularly to all CHAA.net subscribers. Therefore we urge you to maintain your details with us especially if you change jobs or your email address. You can do this via the CHAA website - please encourage your colleagues to similarly register with us. CHAA.net members are offered discounts to many conferences and other events plus access to the latest research and other useful information.

Regards,

Associate Professor Jane Carthey
Director
Centre for Health Assets Australasia



Contacts



Nico Wanandy
Administrative Coordinator

Centre for Health Assets Australasia
Room 1013 Red Centre (West Wing)
Faculty of the Built Environment
The University of New South Wales
UNSW Sydney NSW 2052 Australia
Ph: +61 2 9385 5619
Fax: +61 2 9385 5935
Email: CHAA.Admin@unsw.edu.au



Home Modification Information
Clearinghouse
Level 1, Red Centre (West Wing)
Faculty of the Built Environment
The University of New South Wales
UNSW Sydney NSW 2052 AUSTRALIA
Tel: +61 2 9385 5357 /
1800 305 486
Fax: +61 2 9385 5935
Email: HMinfo@fbe.unsw.edu.au



Centre for Health Assets Australasia

Faculty of the Built Environment The University of New South Wales Phone: +61 2 9385 5619 Fax: +61 2 9385 5935 Website: www.chaa.net.au

