



## 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

### → Australasian Health Facility Guidelines Update

The following documents are in the process of a final, rigorous QA check prior to endorsement by all jurisdictions. The QA check is addressing readability, accuracy and references for:

- Part C (revision)
- Part D (revision)
- Operating HPU (revision)
- Rehabilitation HPU (new)
- Adult Acute Mental Health Unit (revision)
- Cardiac Investigation HPU (new)
- Coronary Care HPU (new)
- Inpatient Accommodation HPU (revision)
- PET HPU (new)
- Nuclear Medicine HPU (new).

### → CHAA in the media

A/Prof Jane Carthey was interviewed by Sydney Morning Herald reporter Leonie Lamont for the article on single rooms

in hospitals, 'Finally, hospitals that make you feel better', SMH 3 September, 2009. Jane supported the Australian health architects but cautioned against using international evidence-based designs for single room construction without more comprehensive local research. To read the whole article [click here](#). To visit the Australasian Health Facility Guidelines, [click here](#).

### → Changes in Centre Personnel

John Horridge, our Senior Research Fellow, has left CHAA to enjoy the finer things in life... retirement! John will be sorely missed and we'd like to thank him for his wisdom and dedication to the Australasian Health Facility Guidelines.

We would also like to take this opportunity to introduce new staff here at CHAA:

Helder Marcal has stepped in to finalise the 2008/2009

Australasian Health Facility Guidelines program and we welcome him to CHAA.

Susan Mills has joined the team as our Librarian who will facilitate literature reviews and searches across the CHAA and HMinfo projects.

Anumitra Chand and Michael Wong are working with Venny Chandra on the Climate Change and Health Infrastructure project: *Assessing the Adaptive Capacity of Hospital Facilities to Cope with Climate-Related Extreme Weather Events*.

Vivien Chow joins Yong-Moon Jung working on the Health Infrastructure Future Directions project that will research the planning and delivery of health built infrastructure in NSW for the next 20 to 30 years.

We would like to welcome our newest team members and we look forward to working together.



→ **CHAA Project updates**

**NSW Health Infrastructure Project**

*The Health Infrastructure Future Directions Project: Flexibility and adaptability in health facility design* involves a systematic literature search for models of care emerging internationally, with focus on guiding design principles that allow for health care assets to adapt to future changes. The findings from this research will have implications for the planning and delivery of new healthcare facilities in NSW in the next few decades. Contact [CHAA](#) for more information.

**Climate Change Project**

*Assessing the Adaptive Capacity of Hospital Facilities to Cope with Climate-Related Extreme Weather Events* Project Phase One will be looking at the vulnerability of hospitals under different weather and health scenarios. During this phase, the project aims to produce specific weather, health, and infrastructural scenarios for a case study involving thorough climate assessments and focus groups using a risk management tool (ie ROMS) with partners' representatives. Contact [CHAA](#) for more information.

→ **Out and About.**

**IPFA, 19 Aug**

A/Prof Jane Carthey attended the International Project Finance Association (IPFA) hosted Brookfield Multiplex & JLT Hospitals event *Trends and Pressures in Australasian Healthcare Projects*. Jane presented an overview of the *Australasian Health Sector: Models of Care - Case Studies*.

**IHEA, 9-12 Sept**

A/Prof Jane Carthey presented at the Institute of Hospital Engineering Australia (IHEA) National Conference on the Gold Coast 9-12 September on the *Importance of Underfoot Safety in Building Design and Fitout*. Jane's presentation included an outline of NSW Health Technical Series TS-7 *Floor Covering in Health Buildings*.

**EuHPN 21-23 Sept**

Jane also attended the European Health Property Network (EuHPN) Conference on Infrastructure for Mental Health Services and Design for Dementia Care at Van Mildert College, Durham University, UK on 21-23 September. Her presentation discussed the Australian Mental Health Facilities and the development of the Australasian Health Facility Guidelines.

**Climate Adaptation 22 Sept**

Dr Venny Chandra & Anumita Chand attended the Climate Adaptation Information Sharing Forum in Canberra. The forum had very informative presentations from various private & government departments on their climate adaptive initiatives. [Click here](#) for more information.

→ **ARC Discovery Project update**

A/Prof Jane Carthey is part of the team headed by Prof Rick Iedema at UTS who are working on *Examining Organisational Complexity & Clinical Risk to Improve Hospital Patients Safety*. The project investigates communication practices using experience-based enquiry to bring about safe care. Safe care is at risk because inadequate communication processes among members of health care teams or between health care teams lead to numerous hospital caused incidents, an issue now recognised to be a global problem. The project team is currently seeking to bring together the perspectives of architects, clinicians at the 'coal face', and policy makers. They are beginning to map the space in between ideal-type models of care, future and existing architectural designs, the complexity of clinical work, and in situ patient safety. We look forward to the next phase of this important project.

→ **buildingSMART National Conference 10-11 Sept, 2009**

The buidingSMART National Conference - BIM, Collaboration & Interoperability was held at UNSW and addressed to the whole construction sector with recent projects, case studies on the increasing adoption of building information modelling (BIM). The Conference showcased research from Sweden, Singapore, New Zealand and Australasia. For further information and presentations, [click here](#).



## Project News

Our new schedule of non-recurrently funded work for the period June 2009-2010 has begun. For instance we have three exciting new projects underway:

### **Comparative or cost/benefit analysis of ramps versus lifts**

*Team members: Yong-Moon Jung & George Martin*

**Outline:** This paper examines cost and benefit factors expected by installing ramps and lifts. As a comparative study, economic estimates of costs and benefits of two alternatives to stairs will be explored. This publication is expected to serve as a guideline particularly in terms of pricing of home modification equipments for vertical movements. **Status:** preliminary literature search is underway.

### **Review of Aboriginal Housing guidelines in relation to adequacy and appropriateness of functional impairment provisions.**

*Team member: Lyndal Millikan*

**Outline:** This paper will look at the existing legislation and guidelines with regard to Aboriginal housing at a Federal level and in the States and Territories and how it does (or does

not) take functional impairment as a result of disability (acquired or congenital) and ageing. **Status:** literature search in progress and key terms being defined; Identification and contact being made with key stakeholders and potential research partners.

### **Training and education of home modification staff, allied health staff**

*Team member: Lyndal Millikan*

**Outline:** To identify and act on opportunities to improve and body of knowledge for occupational therapists and related staff in the area of home and environmental modifications. **Status:** review and identification of opportunities, and prioritisation of those that best fit both the HMinfo strategic planning initiatives and funded hours.

At this time HMinfo representation on the HMMS Occupational Therapists Reference Group had been identified as an area where cooperation between like funded bodies to a target audience will provide mutually advantageous outcomes.



## HMinfo Team News

The Home Modification Information Clearinghouse (HMinfo) has had some changes in staff, with Andrew Clark leaving to pursue his PhD research at the University of Newcastle. George Martin has joined the Clearinghouse as a research and administrative assistant and Susan Mills, whose duties are shared with the Health Facilities Guidelines Project on a 50% basis, joins as our Team Librarian as we were successful in arranging a trial secondment from the UNSW Library. We are particularly pleased to have a Librarian back on board as Susan's skills underpin all our evidence-based activities. Nico Wanandy has replaced Miriam Burgess as the Administrative Coordinator for both the Clearinghouse and CHAA. We wish Andrew well and are glad to have all our new staff onboard, and welcome their contributions to the team!

A/Prof Catherine Bridge returned from Paris where she presented at the XIXth Congress of Gerontology & Geriatrics in July and attended the International Conference on Smart Homes and Health Telematics ICOST09. These conferences showcased advances in enabling technologies coupled with evolving care paradigms for improving the quality of life for ageing and disabled people both inside and outside of their homes.

A/Prof Bridge also presented at the Sydney based, 2009 Housing Researcher Conference and the recent NSW Home and Community Care Conference on housing for an ageing population. In August, Yong-Moon Jung attended the ACHSE 2009 National Congress on the Gold Coast, presenting a poster on behalf of the Clearinghouse. Yong and Catherine have also published their systematic review entitled *The effectiveness of ceiling hoists in transferring people with a disability*, which is reviewed in this newsletter and freely available on our website at [www.homemods.info](http://www.homemods.info).



## The National Falls Prevention Summit

19-20 October, 2009, The Hilton, Brisbane, Queensland

Topics to be addressed include common causes of falls, the latest evidence on effective interventions, policy and planning developments and lessons learned from case studies of programs in the hospital and the community.

Keynote speakers include Dr. Nick Waldron (NHMRC-NICS), Pr. Keith Hill (La Trobe University), Dr. Nancy Peel (University of Queensland), A/Pr. Lindy Clemson (University of Sydney) and Dr. Terry Haines (Monash University).

For further information [click here](#), or contact Jeff Johnson on +61 2 9080 4073.

## → HMinfo Publication

### The Effectiveness of Ceiling Hoists in Transferring People with Disabilities

By Yong Moon Jung & Dr Catherine Bridge

This paper investigates the benefits - in terms of independence and safety- of installing a ceiling hoist at home, for those with mobility limitations and their carers. This research will assist with the decision-making by potential users in selecting a safe and effective transfer method through a rigorous comparison of ceiling hoists with other handling methods.

The review identified strong evidence that ceiling hoists significantly decreased musculo-skeletal injuries and physical stress for care-givers. Despite a few contrary outcomes,

when compared to mobile hoists and manual handling, ceiling hoists were the preferred option for both care-givers and the care-recipients. Ceiling hoists required less set-up time to fulfil the transfer task than mobile hoists. Improved manoeuvrability and reduced susceptibility to spatial restriction are well documented advantages of ceiling hoists. However, disadvantages were noted in that ceiling hoists have coverage limitations and still require some manual handling to prepare for a transfer. In spite of the relatively expensive instalment cost, ceiling hoist systems were found to be more cost-effective in the long-run.

View this article at [www.homemods.info](http://www.homemods.info)

## → "Disability in Australia: Multiple disabilities and need for assistance" AIHW.

In September the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released the latest in their "Disability Series", entitled "Disability in Australia: Multiple disabilities and the need for assistance". It is a revealing document which highlights the link between long term health conditions (such as Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia, speech problems and stroke) and multiple disability.

In 2003, over half of all Australians with disability had a combination of two or more intellectual, psychiatric, sensory/speech, acquired brain injury (ABI) and physical/diverse disabilities (about 10% of the Australian population or 2 million people). The

average number of long-term health conditions associated with disabilities ranged from 3.5 for people with two disabilities to 6.2 for people with five disabilities. Dementia, autism, Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia, speech problems, and stroke were long-term health conditions more commonly associated with multiple disabilities.

Half of children aged under 15 years with psychiatric disability (42,300) or ABI (11,500) had three or more disabilities, followed by over one-third of children with sensory/speech (48,100) or intellectual disability (55,100).

[Click here](#) for the online article.

## → The Victorian Universal Housing Alliance

The Victorian Universal Housing Alliance (VUHA) is a joint initiative of the Victorian Council of Social Service (VCoSS), the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA), Council on the Ageing (COTA), the Chronic Illness Alliance and the Housing Resource and Support Service. As explained on their website, "the Alliance was established to advocate for State regulation to increase Victoria's stock of universal housing – housing

which is designed to be used by all people to the greatest extent possible."

The Alliance sports a long and diverse list of affiliated institutions, which is testament to their comprehensive representation of all groups who stand to benefit from the acceptance of universal design by the state legislature.

For more information please visit their website by [clicking here](#).

## → Recent News: The Disability Conventions Protocol

In July 2008, the Rudd Government ratified the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities. The Protocol provides a mechanism for Australians to make complaints to the United Nations Disabilities Committee in the event that all domestic options have been exhausted. The HMinfo Clearinghouse welcomes this as a significant step forward, bringing options and empowerment to Australians living with disability and those caring for them.

The Rudd Government has also declared the Convention under the Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 to enable the Australian Human Rights Commission to conciliate complaints based on breaches of the Convention. With the addition of disability to its portfolio, the Commission will be empowered to report to Government on how the Convention is being implemented.



## Computing, Remote Monitoring, Materials and Implants

Accelerating advances in computing lead to accelerating advances in medicine. That is the mantra underpinning every edition of the Health Futures Digest. In the September issue, the linkage is illustrated perhaps more explicitly than usual. Ever more exotic forms of computing are extending the reach of doctors to monitor patients at great distances, as well as helping create exotic materials finding their way into some pretty exotic surgical implants. [Click here for more information.](#)



## Publications

CHAA publications include refereed journal articles, refereed conference papers, research papers, project reports and conference and seminar presentations. 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. To view, visit [HMinfo's Publications](#) webpage.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:HMinfo@fbe.unsw.edu.au)



## 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 Built Environment Faculty (UNSW BE).

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



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](http://www.chaa.net.au)

