

WA HACC Home Modification & Assistive Technology Project Update - March 2016

The partnership between the Independent Living Centre WA (ILC) and WA Home and Community Care (HACC) Program on the Home Modification and Assistive Technology (HM & AT) Project continues to progress.

The overall aim of the project is to inform and develop a sustainable service model that will enable WA HACC Program clients to access and receive home modifications and assistive technology (often referred to as aids and equipment) that support independence and wellbeing through the WA Assessment Framework.

This communication aims to inform you of some of the project developments that have occurred over the last six months.

Development of a Consumer Tool Kit

A consumer tool kit is being developed with two key aims:

- to increase awareness of basic aids and equipment available (particularly mainstream appliances or tools), their associated benefits and availability.
- to support individuals to be able to identify their own needs and provide information and options for purchasing aids and equipment.

The Project Team will be seeking feedback and input from the community into the development of this kit to ensure that the information is relevant and applicable to the target audience.

Ongoing support and development for WA HACC Regional Assessment Service (RAS)

The Home Modification and Equipment Professional Development Workshop was delivered to WA HACC assessors and Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) providers in December 2015.

The aim of the workshop was to assist assessors to better identify when there is a need for HM & AT; what factors could trigger a referral for an occupational therapy assessment; to raise awareness of some basic equipment available and benefits to clients in supporting independence; and to provide clarity on the pathways in which HACC clients can access HM & AT.

A draft practice guide (HACC Home Modification and Equipment Referral Guidelines and Practice) developed by the Project Team was also distributed to attendees for

trial and application. The useability and usefulness of the guide to assessors will shortly be evaluated.

The advisory line set up as part of the project to provide support and guidance specifically to WA HACC assessors in identifying need for and pathways to HM & AT will continue to be available.

Home Modification Best Practice Scoping Review Completed

The Best Practice Scoping Review, conducted in partnership with Curtin University School of Occupational Therapy and Social Work, to look at best practice in home modification service delivery is completed and will be released in due course. The outcome of the review will be used to guide the development of a service delivery model.

The findings of the Scoping Review will be presented by the Project Team at the upcoming Home Modifications Australia conference alongside a presentation titled *Developing the building blocks for a consumer focused Home Modifications and Assistive Technology service model in WA*.

Development of a Home Modification Provider Toolkit

A toolkit that will provide information to WA HACC home modifications and equipment providers on the application of best practice in service delivery is in development.

The toolkit will include:

- Procedures and HACC guidelines
- Clinical and design guidelines for health professionals
- Guiding models of practice
- Documentation templates
- Staff and professional development policies
- Professional resources

Technology to Support Home Modification Practice Workshop

A professional development workshop was developed by the Project Team in collaboration with the ILC Assistive Equipment Services team for occupational therapists wanting to learn how tablet applications could be used to assist home modification practices. The workshop was held in November 2015.

A second workshop is scheduled for later this year and will focus on iPad applications.

Next steps

The next stages of the project will focus on:

- Targeted support for the Regional Assessment Services
- Continued development of consumer resources
- Sharing of the Home Modification Best Practice Scoping Review outcome to stakeholders; and development of a service delivery approach based on its findings
- WA HACC service provider engagement to increase awareness of home modification and equipment needs and referral pathways
- Development of a platform that will improve access, for current and future consumers and the general public, to information, advice and services with regard to their HM & AT needs

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