



[View this in your browser.](#)

## Summer Edition Newsletter No.4

---

Summer is a good time to review and update some past posts. This week the topic is housing.

---

### Liveable Homes Guide from WA

The hiatus in progress towards rolling out basic access features in all new homes has spawned a series of guides by different government authorities in attempts to encourage progress. The West Australian guide to liveable homes is yet another publication basically promoting the same design features as the Livable Housing Design Guidelines that were agreed by COAG and the housing ...

[Read more](#)

### WHO Housing, Health & Accessibility

The WHO latest guidelines on housing and health have five key areas and accessibility is one of them. The "strong recommendation" is, "Based on current and projected national prevalence of populations with functional impairments and taking into account trends of ageing, an adequate proportion of the housing stock should be accessible to people with functional impairments." In the remarks it ...

[Read more](#)

### Accessible housing: costs and gains

The need for all new homes to have basic universal design features will continue to increase as the population ages. The costs of modifying and renovating homes to facilitate ageing in place are borne by both governments (that is, taxpayers) and

homeowners. However, we are yet to have a policy to make these cost-efficient features mandatory in mass market housing. ...

[Read more](#)

## Downsizing: It's not about the money

Policy makers think that downsizing is largely about finances and homes being too large to suit ageing in place. But the evidence is something else. Research findings put to bed some of the myths younger policy makers have about older people and their ideas on housing. The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) has released an overview of research carried ...

[Read more](#)

## Dementia friendly homes

While this set of guidelines is focused on Ireland, there are some good ideas that are not country specific. The online resource produced by the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design is divided into separate downloadable sections: Home location and approach Entering and moving around Spaces for living Elements and systems The Design Guidelines complement Universal Design Guidelines for Homes in ...

[Read more](#)

## Home Coming? Yes it's possible

This article from Penny Galbraith was written when the Australian Building Codes Board called for responses to their Options Paper on Accessible Housing. The title of Penny's paper presented at the recent UD Conference in Ireland is, Home Coming? A Story of Reassurance, Opportunity and Hope for Universally Designed Housing in Australia. Using facts and figures, she challenges the many false ...

[Read more](#)

## Small bathroom design and UD

Home design magazines now feature larger bathrooms with larger fittings, such as freestanding bathtubs. The room has gone from being a purely functional space to one of relaxation and wellbeing. Consequently the design of smaller bathrooms is somewhat ignored. Designing for Small Bathrooms by Sivertsen and Berg, of Oslo and Akershus University of Applied Sciences, Norway, seeks to address this. Their ...

[Read more](#)

## Neat ideas for the kitchen

The latest newsletter from Todd Brickhouse Associates includes some good kitchen design ideas. Scrolling down the page, you can see a picture of a pull-out table that nests neatly under the kitchen bench and over the storage drawers when not in use. Colour contrast is mentioned as an important feature. Another idea is a dual height island bench which has ...

[Read more](#)

## Specialist guide for wheelchair housing

The latest Habinteg Wheelchair Housing Design Guide has input from several specialists at Centre for Accessible Environments and the Royal College of Occupational Therapists. It is good to see a separate guide for wheelchair users. Not all wheelchair users need the same features as their abilities vary greatly from part time users of a manual chair to those who are ...

[Read more](#)

## Livable Housing Design Guidelines v4

Livable Housing Australia has released an updated version of their Guidelines. The latest version does not contain any real changes, rather it tidies up a few inconsistencies and resolves a few queries. With a move to performance criteria in the National Construction Code, it is good to see this highlighted in the document. Livable Housing Australia states, "We champion the ...

[Read more](#)

## Conferences and calls for papers

4th Australian Universal Design Conference Early **announcement of Keynote speakers**: James Thurston from 3Gitc, the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs, will talk about smart cities for all. Philip Taylor will share his passion about older people and workforce issues. The conference will be held 12-13 May 2020 at Melbourne Showground's brand new Victoria Pavilion. The theme is Thriving with Universal ...

[Read more](#)

