

factsheet OT/builder roles

Occupational Therapists and HMMS Builders' roles defined

The Role of the Occupational Therapist when referring to a HMMS

The role of the Occupational Therapist (OT) is to assess the functional needs of the client, both current and foreseeable, within their home environment, and to make clear clinical recommendations and specifications with regard to environmental modifications in the home based on this assessment. The Australian Standard AS1428 Suite of Standards underpins OT practice but this Standard can be deviated from by the OT with clear clinical justification. OT recommendations and specifications are based on the individual needs of each client.

The Role of the HMMS Builder

The role of the Builder is to complete building works as prescribed by the OT. Additionally the Builder ensures the modifications proposed by the OT are technically feasible and comply with the Building Code of Australia, relevant Standards, local government ordinances ie. set backs and easements and regulatory/statutory requirements as set out by government departments such as WorkCover. The HMMS Builder's role is to also provide the most cost-effective option for the client with the preparation of a Scope of Works and specifications for the project in accordance with the ADHC Service Delivery Guidelines. This ensures funding is allocated to as many HACC clients possible.

Occupational Therapists' Partnerships with HMMS

The 'NSW HACC Service Type Guidelines, Home Modification' set out the minimum mandatory requirements for HMMS in NSW. The Guidelines state that an OT assessment is necessary for all home modification referrals. As such, many Occupational Therapists and HMMS/Builders have established collaborative working partnerships to seek the best outcome for the client.

OTs play an important, integral role in assessing the clinical and physical needs of clients and their carers and planning the client's individual modifications. Builders who work for HMMS are encouraged to foster solid working partnerships with the OTs in their area to ensure funding is allocated in an accountable manner and the best outcome is achieved for their clients.

Sources

NSW HMMS State Council Technical Manual
NSW HACC Service Type Guidelines, Home Modification, Page 1, 1.3
<http://www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au/dadhc/Doing+business+with+us/hacc.htm>

**For further advice consult the
NSW HMMS State Council's
Specialist Occupational Therapist
or Specialist Technical Officer.**

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