

HELPING YOU GET ONLINE

We want to help you get comfortable with technology

It is hard to fathom how much has changed the last few decades.

Not that long ago, you queued inside a bank to withdraw money, now cash is rarely needed. You wrote a cheque to pay someone, now you can instantly transfer money online. You stayed in touch by writing a letter or chatting to family and friends on a corded house telephone, now you can instantly email people from your mobile phone and video call people via platforms like FaceTime, Skype and Zoom.

Today, we live in a digital world, and it is imperative people of all ages have the knowledge, skills and tools to access and harness the internet.

Increasingly, especially post-pandemic, knowing how to use the internet is vital to access essential services and stay connected with family and friends.

We have also harnessed the power of technology in recent years to better connect with its members. In recent months, we have live streamed the 70th Anniversary of the ANZAC Field of Remembrance and held online cooking classes.

However, in Australia, 80 per cent of people aged over 65 years find it difficult to keep up with technology changes and women have lower digital literacy than men.

As our world becomes increasingly digital, we want to make sure that you are not left behind or disadvantaged because you are unsure about technology or accessing the internet.

To help our more than 3000 widows have the right knowledge, skills and tools to access the

internet and be connected safely online, we will be launching a number of initiatives, training more Digital Mentors and sharing a series of articles.

We will start with the basics and build up over successive Digests. We hope you enjoy the series.

If you are proficient in the use of technology and are interested in volunteering your time, please let us know!

Equally, if you have questions about technology or digital platforms or devices please let us know, we would love to make this new section useful for you.

Getting Online: Technology Basics

Technology is often foreign at first. It takes a little while, and a little knowledge, to understand what does what and how to use a computer, mobile phone and the internet.

The Australian Government has created several online courses on its Be Connected website to help get every Australian online.



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What is a computer?

A desktop computer is one of the most common types of computers. This kind of computer is also known as a desktop or PC, which is short for personal computer.

You can use a desktop computer to do a range of useful, informative, fun and creative activities. Some of these may include:

- using the internet
- playing games, music, and videos
- writing letters
- selling or shopping online
- banking.

What is a laptop?

A laptop is a type of computer that can run on its in-built rechargeable batteries and combines all the main parts of a desktop computer into a single case.

You can carry a laptop around and rest it on your lap to use it, which is how it gets its name.

Despite how different they look; laptop and desktop computers do the same things. They use the same programs, or applications, and perform the same tasks.

If you want to use a computer when you are out then a laptop is small, light, and runs on batteries so you can take it out with you.

What is a tablet?

Like a laptop computer, a tablet can run on internal battery power and is light and small enough to take anywhere.

Unlike a laptop, a tablet has no physical keyboard or touchpad. Instead, you control it by touching the screen with your fingers.

Tablets come with programs that let them do a range of things. Programs are also called applications, or apps, and you can add apps to a tablet to help it do more.

Each app is represented by a small picture on the screen called an icon.

Tablets come in assorted sizes, from a paperback size to a coffee-table book size, and most are light enough to carry around easily.

What is a smartphone?

Most smartphones look like a tablet, only small enough to fit in your pocket.

A smartphone has a large, glass screen which, like a tablet, is a touchscreen. You can tap and swipe your fingers across the screen to control a range of things on a smartphone. There are two main types of smartphones: Android and Apple's iPhone. They look similar and do the same things ... just a bit differently.

The modern smartphone can do as many things as a full-sized computer. Programs, called applications, or apps, allow it to do specific tasks, such as make calls or send text messages.

Other things you might do with a smartphone include:

- video chat with friends
- listen to music or play games



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- browse the internet
- send and receive emails
- navigate with maps
- social networking
- make lists and calendar appointments.

To use a smartphone, you need to have a mobile phone plan from a provider, such as Telstra, Optus or Vodafone. These plans have a monthly cost and allow you to make calls and access, or browse, the internet.

Some mobile phone plans can include the cost of the phone handset in the monthly price.

There is usually a limit on how much calling and internet browsing you can do per month, depending on your mobile phone plan's data allowance.



What is the Internet?

When you connect to the internet, it is like talking to a billion other people at once. You can ask them for information on anything.

You can purchase goods from a shop, get up-to-the-minute news from the world, send updates and pictures to family and friends, or even connect to groups of people with interests the same as yours. The possibilities are endless.

To access the internet, you need an internet service, also known as broadband. In Australia, this network is built and maintained by the government's National Broadband Network (NBN).

It's very much like a telephone service. You pay a monthly fee, and in return you will be connected to an internet line that runs to your house.

You can also access the internet through a mobile phone service.

For more information about technology basics, scan the QR Code below:

