

HOW TO GET STARTED ONLINE

Getting online

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.

Here is what they say about getting started online.

Using the internet

There is not much you can't do on the internet.

You can use the internet for many things, including online shopping, online banking, looking up information, and staying connected with family and friends.

You can connect to the internet in the following ways:

- Home Broadband internet connection and home Wi-Fi.
- Public Wi-Fi: many public places, such as cafés and libraries, offer free public Wi-Fi to customers.
- Mobile data: using your smartphone or tablet, provided you have a mobile data plan.

Using search engines

Being able to use online searches will help you find information quickly using the internet. Search engines like Google, Bing and Yahoo! can help you find websites, facts and other information quickly.

Using a search engine is easy. All you need to do is enter what you're looking for and the search engine will try and find it for you.

When entering your search words, be as specific as you can. That way you will get fewer and more relevant results.

For example, if you want to find information on border collie dogs, searching for border collie will produce more specific results than searching for dogs.

After doing a search you will get a list of results that matches your search words. This could include web pages, photos, videos, and documents.

The results are ranked, so the most relevant links are at the top.



FAMILIES OF VETERANS GUILD

Using email

'Email' stands for 'Electronic mail'. It works a lot like normal letters or mail, but it is online. It allows you to send messages and photos to people instantly – and for free – using the internet.

As well as staying connected with friends and family, you can use your email account to do loads of useful things like get receipts for things you buy online, and get updates from your favourite websites.

An email provider is a web-based service that lets you create an account you can use to send, receive, and store your emails. Three of the largest email providers are Gmail, Yahoo! and Outlook. You can go to one of their websites to create an account for free.

Using an email provider, you can access your emails from any computer that is connected to the internet.

Using online forms

In the past, filling in a form meant collecting a paper document, completing it and sending it off. Today, lots of forms are available online as convenient alternatives to paper forms.

But why fill in a form online?

You can access an online form any time – you do not have to collect it or wait for the post. You can also submit it right away online, saving postage costs. And there is no risk of it getting lost on the way.

Many forms allow you to save your work so you do not have to finish it in one go, and lots of sites will send you a confirmation email or receipt so you know your form's been delivered.

For more information about getting started online, scan the QR code below:



e-safety tip

Always take care when connecting to public Wi-Fi networks, as they are not secure. To be safe, never do anything on a public Wi-Fi network that needs a username or password or banking details to be entered, for example, online banking, logging in to social media or buying goods online.