



Australian Government

# Be Connected

Every Australian online.



**Be Connected is a free Australian Government initiative aimed at increasing the confidence, skills and online safety of older Australians when they use the internet and everyday technology.**

Older Australians will be able to learn the basics of going online, including:

- being safe while online
- talking to or seeing family and friends who live far away, more often
- finding new friends or old friends who share similar interests and hobbies
- keeping up-to-date with what's happening in their community and around the world
- shopping online, safely and securely, without leaving home.

**Be Connected will deliver a range of resources specifically designed to support older Australians, as well as families, influencers and community organisations who want to help these Australians to get online.**

#### **Be Connected website**

Older Australians, and their families, peers and local community organisations, can access interactive learning activities, training courses, web apps and 'how-to' videos. There are training courses covering the basics of using computers and digital devices, online shopping, socialising online and more – all designed to appeal and be of interest to older Australians.

#### **Be Connected National Network Manager**

Good Things Foundation is supporting community organisations and services that join the Be Connected Network to provide free, personalised and face-to-face training and support to older Australians.

#### **Be Connected Network Partner Grants**

A total of \$20 million in small grants is available over the next three years to support organisations joining the Be Connected Network as a Network Partner. These grants start at \$1,500 to help Be Connected Network Partners get started. More information about the grants is available on the Be Connected website [www.beconnected.esafety.gov.au](http://www.beconnected.esafety.gov.au)

Building on the successful elements of the preceding Broadband for Seniors program, Be Connected will enable older Australians to continue to gain the confidence and skills they need to use digital technology.

The Department of Social Services has overarching responsibility for implementing the Be Connected initiative, in partnership with the Office of the eSafety Commissioner.

#### **Be Connected will help:**

- older Australians who have low or no engagement with digital technology
- families, peers and influencers of older Australians who lack the skills and confidence to go online
- community organisations that are committed to digital inclusion and supporting older Australians bridge the digital divide.

**Older Australians with low internet skills can often feel isolated from their community and family at a time in their lives when feeling connected is increasingly important.**

Be Connected aims to change that through a family and community centred approach. It will help older Australians to realise the value of being connected online and provide access to appropriate training and support in a safe and familiar environment.

To learn more or to find your local Be Connected Network Partner:



Call **1300 795 897**



Go to [www.beconnected.esafety.gov.au](http://www.beconnected.esafety.gov.au)