



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

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GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE TO GET SENIORS ONLINE

Boomers and seniors living in Maranoa can now become better connected online thanks to \$20 million in Federal Government funding, Member for Maranoa David Littleproud announced today.

“We encourage community organisations to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to deliver free digital skills training to people over 50 as part of the Be Connected Programme,” Mr Littleproud said.

“Using the internet is not just something young people do. We want to make sure everyone can embrace the digital age.

“By joining the Be Connected Network, organisations across Maranoa can help our seniors maintain their independence and keep connected with family and friends.”

Community organisations that join the network can apply for a range of grants, including an Activation Grant of \$2000, a Get Online Week 2018 Event Grant of \$1500 and a Building Digital Skills Grant of up to \$15,000, depending on how many people they have registered on the Be Connected website.

Mr Littleproud said one of the biggest advantages of signing up to the digital world is greater social interaction. Seniors can be entertained with online streaming, subscribe to online news and video call family and friends living overseas.

“Participants in the programme get free, personalised face-to-face coaching and access to interactive tutorials and resources,” he said.

“Recent research from Griffith University has shown that the number of seniors embracing information technology is surging, with Skype, e-mail and even social media apps like Instagram becoming vital tools to keep the elderly connected.

“Nowadays, almost 75% of people aged 75 years and older are using technology every day.”

More than 1500 organisations have already joined the Be Connected Network across Australia, including libraries, community centres, clubs and aged care facilities.

To find out more information about Be Connected or to join the network, go to www.beconnected.esafety.gov.au or call 1300 795 897.

Be Connected partners in Maranoa:

Barcaldine Regional Council (60 & Better Program)
Bell Bunya Community Centre
Central Western Queensland Remote Area Planning and
Development Board
GraniteNet Inc
Injune Library
Jundah Information Centre & Library
Mungindi Library
Murilla Community Centre, Miles
Quilpie Shire Council
Taralga Retirement Village
Western Downs Libraries
Winton 60 and Better
Wirrarrri Information Centre Birdsville
Yarraman & District Men's Shed Inc.

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