Digital Futures Network

Bringing together local and state government, the public sector, industry, and academia to establish a network focused on bridging the digital divide in Victoria.

One in four people in Australia are still digitally excluded, and many more struggle to access, afford, and effectively use digital technologies.[1]

To support our communities, Deakin University's Digital Futures Network will bring together local and state government, public libraries, and industry partners across Victoria to establish a network focused on digital inclusion, the digital economy, and digital services.

Consisting of more than 60 interconnected hubs, spokes, and nodes across Victoria, the Digital Futures Network is a pilot program aimed at highlighting and linking existing infrastructure and services that can assist communities to connect, upskill and ultimately bridge the digital divide.

▶ **Founding Partners:**

- City of Melbourne
- Wyndham City Council
- Geelong Regional Library Corporation
- Yarra Plenty Regional Libraries
- Deakin Library
- South West TAFE
- Megantic

▶ **Technology Partners:**

- Megantic
- Bendigo Telco

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[1] Australian Digital Inclusion Index 2023

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▶ **Background**

The Digital Futures Network is an initiative of Deakin's Digital Futures program that was established in 2021 with support from the Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund (VHESIF), assisting universities with capital works, applied research and infrastructure projects aimed at boosting Victoria's economy as the state recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Victorian Government is committed to introducing a thriving digital economy by attracting talent, upskilling communities and businesses, creating jobs, and bridging the digital divide.

The Digital Futures Network is aligned with both Federal and State Government digital strategy initiatives and pathways towards an Australian digital economy and society.

The Network is driven by public good objectives such as delivering free digital literacy, financial literacy, and business literacy programs, as well as social inclusion by providing support and free access to technology and digital resources to underserved communities.

The Network currently has an estimated capacity of serving more than four million Victorians across more than 60 locations and touchpoints, and further expansion is expected.

▶ **Join Us**

If you're interested in partnering with us or supporting the Digital Futures Network, please get in touch:

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For more information visit:

deakin.edu.au/digital-futures

▶ **The Digital Futures Network is supported by the Victorian Government and Regional Development Victoria:**

• Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership (LDRP)

• Barwon Regional Partnership (BRP)

• Great South Coast Regional Partnership (GSCRP)

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