Why Community-Led Solutions Matter for Regional Connectivity

Description

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By Kristen Coggan, Regional Tech Hub

If thereâ??s one thing Iâ??ve learned from criss-crossing regional Queensland over the past few years, itâ??s that locals know best what will work in their own communities.

Iâ??ve lost count of the number of roadshows, field days, morning teas and community catch ups Iâ??ve been part of. We find that people are eager for help to understand their phone and internet options, but they donâ??t want to be talked down to, they donâ??t want big corporate spin, and they definitely donâ??t want to be handed a one-size-fits-all solution.

Thatâ??s exactly why the Regional Tech Hub Connect Grants program is so important. It was designed to directly respond to what we see and hear on the ground every day.

People arenâ??t short of technology options anymore. In fact, thereâ??s more choice than ever, eg. fixed wireless, satellite, mobile broadband, fibre, you name it. But having choices isnâ??t much good if you donâ??t know where to start, or if it all feels too overwhelming. Thatâ??s where local groups can make the difference.

Our Connect Grants, offering up to $3,000, allow communities to run the events they know will work best, whether thatâ??s a workshop at the local library, a barbecue at the footy oval, or a tech talk at the menâ??s shed. We want to help support people with their phone and internet connectivity in â??their backyardâ??.

Iâ??ve seen first-hand how powerful that can be. Itâ??s not always about formal workshops. Sometimes itâ??s a neighbour-to-neighbour chat at the local show, or a cup of tea with the CWA branch after a meeting. These simple connections can unlock life-changing knowledge for people trying to stay in touch with family, run a farm, or simply get reliable service at home or work.

Our goal is to partner with anyone willing to have these conversations. Eligible groups include chambers of commerce, sporting clubs, local councils, farming groups, show societies, you name it. If youâ??ve got a way to bring people together and start a practical discussion about

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connectivity, weâ??re here to help.

Applications are now open, and I canâ??t wait to see what ideas emerge. If youâ??re keen to run something, I encourage you to get in touch. Youâ??ll be helping your community navigate the ever-changing world of connectivity, in the way that works best for you.

Visit our [Connect Grants](#) page to find out more.

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