Education

Making the most of your internet for learning at home

What you need to know for successful online learning

Use the information in this factsheet to ensure you have a suitable connection to get straight into learning online.

Know your options

Understanding the available connectivity and technology options for your home is crucial, especially in regional, rural, and remote Australia. As students advance in their studies, their internet needs may evolve, making it important to reassess your setup over time.

Action: Choose the right internet connection, plan, and equipment to meet your family's learning needs, and regularly review your setup to ensure it remains the best fit.

Staying connected

To ensure continuous internet access and avoid disruptions, consider the following:

Redundancy—having more than one technology type

No technology is 100% reliable, so it's wise to have more than one option for staying connected. Having a backup internet service helps you stay connected during outages or disruptions and makes it easier to report issues to your provider.

Using different types of technology for your main and backup services reduces the chance of both being affected simultaneously.

For example, if you have both a fixed and a mobile broadband connection, you can switch to one if the other experiences issues.

Alternative power options

During power outages, having an alternative power source can keep you connected.

Consider investing in a generator, portable power station, or an UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply). For example, a UPS can help maintain your connection long enough to save your work and shut down your equipment. They can be purchased for a few hundred dollars.

Having the right equipment

Having the right equipment is essential for a reliable online learning experience. Invest in a quality router and, if needed, Wi-Fi extenders or mesh systems to improve your connection throughout your home. Additionally, consider accessories like a headset and camera to enhance your learning setup.

Free connection for school students

The School Student Broadband Initiative (SSBI)

If there's a school-aged student at your home and you haven't had a nbn connection in the past 14 days, you may qualify for free broadband internet until the end of 2025.

The SSBI is an Australian Government initiative providing free home nbn broadband internet to families with school-age students. Families can

apply until the end of December 2024, with successful applicants receiving the free service through to December 2025. For more informhation about the SSBI, visit:

- The National Referral Centre:
  1800 954 610 or
  anglicarevic.org. au/student-internet

Free Microsoft Office 365 subscriptions for students

All Australian students, from kindergarten through to tertiary and VET courses are eligible for up to five free Microsoft 365 licences. Visit the Microsoft website to learn more and check your eligibility.
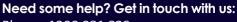
Want to know more?

Find guides on the mentioned topics and more on our website:

- Education resource hub
- Managing education and business online safety
- Managing child safety online
- Video Conferencing: The basics
- Choosing the right internet technology

For more tips, visit our website
www.regionaltechhub.org.au

Need some help? Get in touch with us:
Phone: 1300 081 029

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