



# Clarendon Vale Neighbourhood Centre

## Who are we

Clarendon Vale Neighbourhood Centre (CVNC) is a safe, welcoming space for everyone from Clarendon Vale and surrounding suburbs in Hobart, Tasmania. We are always busy. About 100 people come in the door every day and we run about 80 programs and services a fortnight. CVNC is somewhere locals come to learn, get support, volunteer or just catch up for a coffee.

## What we needed

One of the main aims of the centre is to boost the low levels of digital literacy among residents. To do this we needed some basic tools – computers and WiFi – and ways to teach people how to use things like social media, design and staying safe online.

## How we got there

Our Telstra Connected Communities Grant meant we could get laptops for our volunteers, access to software like Microsoft Office and train them to make the most of the new resources. We then took this knowledge into the community, helping people send emails, print documents and use online services like Service Australia, MyGov and Services TAS, as well as research, study and job application tasks.

## The Telstra Connected Communities Grant Program

The Telstra Connected Communities Grant Program Applications for the 2025 Telstra Connected Communities grant program open from 9am on Thursday 20th of February 2025 and will close at 5pm on Thursday 20th of March 2025. This round will make \$200,000 available for applications of up to \$10,000 each. Successful grants will be announced in June 2025 and successful applicants will have 12 months to complete funded projects.

Learn more about the 2025 Connected Communities grant round here

<https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/telstra-connected-communities-program/>

## Why it worked

The learning experience turned out to be highly dynamic. Staff and volunteers kept finding new ways to apply the digital technology to different projects across health, education and social wellbeing. Their confidence and knowhow got passed on throughout broader community. One big success was our Canva workshops, particularly for older people. Initially unsure, they expanded their creative horizons far more than any of us ever expected.

## Where to next

The tech and associated workshops encouraged a growing trend of self-improvement as well as removing stigmas associated with technology. What started out as a straightforward digital literacy program evolved into a core group of people who won't let it go. Their influence keeps growing, like ripples in a pond, and we're doing everything we can to keep it going. This year, for example we plan to have at least six more programs up and running. Our secret to success is never saying no to anything.