



Southern Yorke Peninsula Community Hub

Who are we

SYP Community Hub in Yorketown, South Australia, is the heart of a vast and remote region that would otherwise have limited access to essential services. Over 300 people rely on our services every month and more in holiday times. We offer almost every support you can think of, from tourism information to driver theory tests. We host meetings, worker placement and a local gallery. After the 2019 bushfires we became a recovery centre and we still run a community resilience program.

What we needed

Our region has one of the lowest digital inclusion levels in South Australia, even though locals need computers for everyday things like shopping. To address this, we used our Telstra Connected Community Grant to buy five iPads and run a series of social media and digital literacy workshops. They were hugely popular and highlighted other things helped us unearth other pressing needs in the community.

Why it worked

The demand for our iPads and classes just kept increasing as people realised what they could do with them. For example, a lot of small businesses design their own marketing after doing Canva workshops with us. Because we're so remote, supermarket shopping online is really useful so we've been able to help a lot of our older residents use this for the first time. Another service we didn't expect to be in such demand was telehealth support for services like speech therapy, occupational therapy and psychology. This is where we plan to focus our help in future.

Where to next

There has always been a lack of specialist medical support in our region. It's part of what makes us so remote. Even so, we never expected the demand for help accessing telehealth to be so great – it really took us by surprise. The plan now is to deliver telehealth-related workshops, which will be especially great for the many older residents in our region. Knowing how to use digital communication is breaking down all sorts of barriers in our region, especially distance.

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/>