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MEDIA RELEASE

Tech Savvy Seniors on the surge in Alexandrina

31 May 2021

Alexandrina Libraries are embracing the digital future to remind us they offer far more than book and magazine loans.

Council was successful in attracting a generous grant to run an innovative training program for seniors. Starting on 17 June 2021 and running until February next year, the Tech Savvy Seniors program, supported by Telstra, Libraries of SA and the Government of South Australia, offers residents aged 60 and over free technology training sessions to launch them into the online world.

Understanding the importance of cyber safety, using mobile devices and learning how to navigate Windows 10 and Gmail accounts are just some of the session topics designed to get more Australians online and increase the digital literacy of our less tech savvy community members.

The Australian Digital Inclusion Index measures citizen's access to digital information technology, general digital affordability and capability. It has found that over 2.5 million Australians are still not online, restricting their access to a wealth of information and services, creating a social divide and disadvantage.

South Australians currently sit below the Australian average on the Index and programs such as Tech Savvy Seniors are designed to help bridge the digital gap and connect more seniors to their friends, families and wider community. The importance of this capability has been highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic allowing ongoing social interactions even when not possible in person due to restrictions.

2016 Census data indicates that 77% of homes in Alexandrina had an internet connection, 7% above the regional SA average, suggesting we are more than ready to be tech savvy.

Confident online access and being a self-determined digital citizen, not only connects users with family members and information from around the globe, but also offers personal empowerment. Participants will experience digital freedom through the ability to independently navigate a range of important services such as MyGov, paying bills through online banking, or doing online shopping for the first time. There is also the opportunity to learn about Zoom, social media and getting your pictures off your phone and sorting them out.

Programs will be held weekly at either the Goolwa or Strathalbyn Libraries, with scope to also move to other townships in the region based on demand.

Tech Savvy Seniors is a group learning experience, with Alexandrina Libraries staff keen to adapt and evolve each program based on participant feedback. The session will move at a comfortable pace, with each running for up to two hours.

To learn more about the Tech Savvy Seniors program and book your place, drop in to the Goolwa or Strathalbyn Library, call 8555 7000; or if you want to dip your toes into the digital world and have a go at making an online booking, visit alexandrina.sa.gov.au/libraryevents



Participants of the upcoming Tech Savvy Seniors Program will learn a range of skills to help them navigate the digital world.