

4 November 2019

Queensland seniors receive tech savvy support

Queensland seniors will benefit from \$285,000 in funding in 2019-20 to beat social isolation through the Tech Savvy Seniors program.

Individual grants of up to \$10,000, will give Queensland public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres the flexibility to meet the needs of their communities as part of the Tech Savvy Seniors Queensland program.

Tech Savvy Seniors is a digital literacy program delivered by State Library of Queensland helping seniors benefit from the digital economy.

The Tech Savvy Seniors Queensland program is an ongoing partnership between the State Library, Telstra, Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors and Queensland public libraries.

Since the program began in 2016 more than 30,000 seniors have embraced the digital world by attending over 5,800 free training sessions.

Queensland seniors have participated in many different training sessions, including how to use a computer, laptop, tablet, smartphone and in some libraries STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) activities.

The 2019-20 funding will help more Queensland seniors learn new digital skills, keeping them connected with their family, friends and communities.

The program also teaches Queensland seniors about online shopping and banking, social media and cyber safety.

Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald:

“Not only does the program reduce social isolation, it increases confidence with day-to-day tasks such as emailing family or paying bills online.”

“I am pleased that State Library of Queensland can continue to help older Queenslanders be tech savvy.”

“So far the Tech Savvy Seniors program has helped over 30,000 Queensland seniors. This funding will help many older Queenslanders on their journey to becoming tech savvy and benefit from the digital economy.”

Quotes from Joan Ellaway, Yeppoon resident and Tech Savvy Seniors program participant

“At this end of my life, learning about technology through Tech Savvy Seniors has given me a whole new lease on life.”

“My mobile is now essential, with so many of my family members living in different parts of the country. I text each of my children at the end of the day – in many ways it’s like being there to kiss them goodnight.”

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Interviews and images are available upon request.

“Video communication like FaceTime is all-important with the little ones. We get a lot of pleasure out of being able to see each other and it makes them less shy when they see me in person. And I love sending photos and emojis. We’re a family with a good sense of humour!”

More information about the Tech Savvy Seniors Queensland program

<https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/about-us/partnerships-collaboration/local-government-and-public-libraries/programs/tech-savvy>