

MEDIA RELEASE - DRAFT

11 February 2020

3,000 organisations around Australia are helping seniors get online safely

Staying connected is more important than ever in Australia, be it in remote areas or in cities. With bushfire warnings, public health updates and instructions, access to information and communities are essential.

It is especially important that seniors are not left out and have the online skills needed to access information at a time when online scams are becoming more and more sophisticated.

Coinciding with worldwide Safer Internet Day on 11 February, Good Things Foundation is pleased to announce that its Be Connected Network has now secured over 3,000 partner organisations around the country, which are helping to enable seniors and minority groups to get online safely and ensure they are not left out.

Safer Internet Day is celebrated across 150 countries, with national efforts helping at-risk groups including seniors with advice and support. Over a quarter of a million Australians have been able to access the skills and training they need to get online safely thanks to the Be Connected Network. Network Partners are from a range of industries such as community centres, libraries, Men's Sheds, disability organisations, employment services providers, and multicultural community groups.

Be Connected has recently announced an additional year of Australian government funding to help continue its efforts in enabling people over the age of 50 to get online safely.

People needing support to learn digital can find a local Be Connected Network Partner by visiting beconnected.esafety.gov.au/find-local-help or calling 1300 795 897.

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Available for interview:

- Jess Wilson: National Director, Good Things Foundation
- Patricia Vaz: Hindi bilingual digital mentor from Ethnic Community Council NSW's Be Connected program. Patricia helps Hindi-speaking seniors in Casula and Parramatta to safely access the internet for activities such as shopping, banking, social media and maps

For further information, interviews or images, please contact:

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Information for editors:

- The Be Connected Network & Grants program is managed by Good Things Foundation - a social change charity with the vision of a world where everyone can benefit from digital. Find out more at www.goodthingsfoundation.org.au
- Be Connected is an Australian government initiative to increase the confidence, skills and online safety of older Australians.