

MEDIA RELEASE

10 December 2019

The network helping 250,000 people connect online for Christmas

Christmas is a time when the internet can bring together families and friends from across the globe. Staying in touch with loved ones and not feeling lonely is easier for those with digital skills.

Building digital skills is an essential part of enabling people over the age of 50 to get online, and through the work of Good Things Foundation and its Be Connected Network of community organisations, over 250,000 people have been able to do just that.

The national Be Connected Network, which was established in 2017, has seen 3,968 grants to the total value of \$12 million, awarded to community organisations. Over 8,800 digital mentors who are assisting learners with face-to-face and online training. Partners are from a range of industries such as community centres, libraries, men's sheds, disability organisations, employment services providers and multicultural community groups.

The importance of this program can be seen from recent data showing that over the last two years the program has worked with partners to support:

- 154 training webinars
- 4,532 helpline calls
- 75,518 email support conversations
- 66,790 resource downloads
- 1,750 digital skills events
- 400 community engagement events

“Good Things Foundation is continuing its commitment to improve digital inclusion through the delivery of the Be Connected program across Australia. The program has reached a growing national network of 2,700 community organisations, which means 250,000 people have been given the tools and training to improve their digital skills. At this time of year, connecting with family and friends is more important than ever and we're very proud to be playing a part in making this happen,” said Jess Wilson, National Director, Good Things Foundation.

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.

-Ends-

.../2

Available for interview:

- Jess Wilson, National Director, Good Things Foundation

For further information, interviews or images, please contact:

Biarta Parnham, Momentum2
02 9212 2000 or 0438 337 408
bparnham@momentum2.com.au

Lyn Tuit, Momentum2
02 9212 2000 or 0405 160 275
ltuit@momentum2.com.au

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.