

7 Steps to Promote Digital Equity in Western Australia

In our increasingly interconnected world, digital technology has become an integral part of daily life. However, not all Western Australian citizens have equal access to these digital resources, highlighting the pressing need to prioritise digital equity and inclusion strategies.


What Is Digital Equity?


Digital equity encompasses ensuring that citizens of all ages, cultural and linguistic backgrounds, abilities, income levels, and geographic locations have the same opportunities to access and engage with digital technology and online services. This mission becomes even more crucial when we consider Indigenous Western Australian citizens living in remote communities.


The WA Government is committed to supporting Western Australians and their communities to access and use digital technologies in everyday life. The Office of Digital Government has developed the 'Digital Inclusion in WA Blueprint' to collaboratively improve digital inclusion.


By prioritising digital equity and inclusion strategies, the Western Australian public and private sectors can partner and work together, to bridge the digital divide and empower all citizens to reap the benefits of the digital age. It's not just about technological advancement; it's about creating a fair and inclusive society where every citizen can thrive.


How Can We Better Promote Equity?


- **1 UNIVERSAL ACCESS**


Digital equity strategies should focus on providing universal access to digital infrastructure and services. This means extending high-speed internet to even the remotest parts of Western Australia. It's about ensuring that digital exclusion is not a barrier for those in remote Indigenous communities.
- **2 DIGITAL LITERACY**

Just providing access is not enough; we must also invest in digital literacy programs. These programs should cater to people of all ages and backgrounds, making them proficient in using digital tools effectively and safely.
- **3 CULTURAL SENSITIVITY**

To ensure inclusivity, digital content and services should be culturally sensitive and relevant. Indigenous languages and cultures should be celebrated and supported in the digital space.
- **4 AFFORDABILITY**

The cost of technology and internet services can be a significant barrier to access. Government initiatives and partnerships with private sector entities can help make digital technology more affordable for low-income individuals and communities.
- **5 TAILORED SERVICES**

Government agencies should design digital services that cater to the diverse needs of the population. This includes accessible interfaces for individuals with disabilities and multilingual platforms for non-English speakers.
- **6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Collaboration with community leaders and organizations in remote areas is vital. Their insights can help shape policies and programs that truly meet the needs of Indigenous citizens.
- **7 DATA PRIVACY AND SECURITY**

Ensuring that digital equity efforts respect the privacy and security of citizens' data is paramount. People need to feel safe when engaging with digital technology.

Want to Learn More?

Attend the Innovate WA 2024 Summit on February 13th to hear more about how the State is working to bridge the gap and better promote digital equity for all.

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