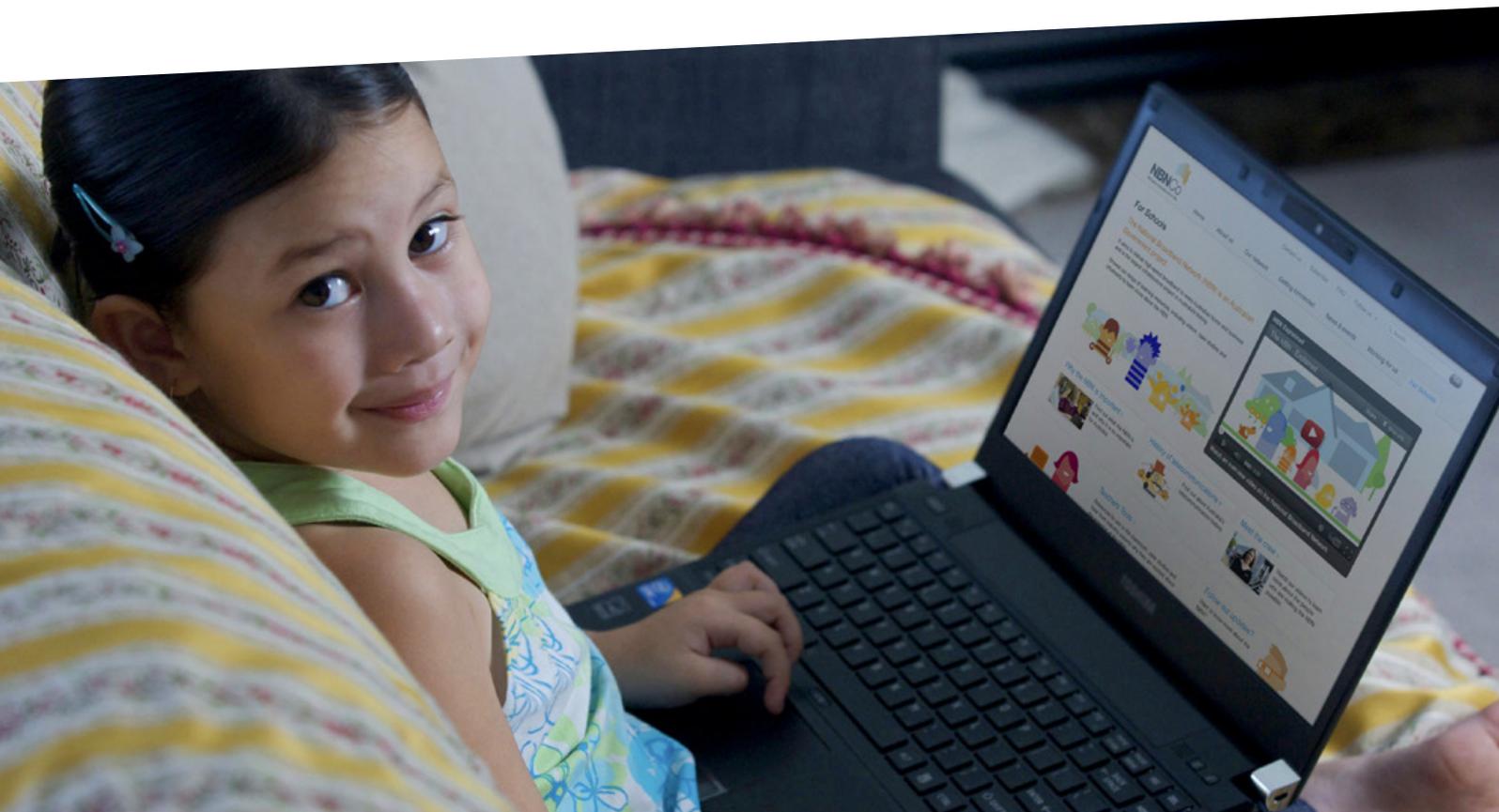


The NBN

What is it and why is it so important?



Overview

The National Broadband Network (NBN) is a high-speed broadband network that is planned to reach Australians everywhere with a combination of fibre, fixed wireless and satellite technologies. Broadband is a high speed internet connection that can carry voice, video and information to people's computers all at the same time.

About the NBN

The NBN is an Australian Government project. It aims to deliver high-speed broadband to all Australian premises with a combination of fibre, fixed wireless and satellite technologies. The NBN is the largest infrastructure project in Australia's history, designed to deliver a high-speed broadband network to every Australian home and business. The government has set up NBN Co Limited (NBN Co), to design, build and operate the NBN.

NBN Co will build the network infrastructure and telephone and internet service providers (TISPs - like Optus, Telstra, Vodafone, iiNet etc) will access the wholesale services on the network to provide internet services to all Australian homes and businesses.

The NBN will be fast, it will offer wholesale speeds of at least to 12 megabits per second over fibre, fixed wireless and the Long Term Satellite Service to telephone and internet service providers, who will then provide services over the NBN to homes and businesses. Those speeds which are provided to homes and businesses will be a little slower than what the service providers get because the speeds experienced depend on things such as the quality and type of in-home or business equipment and connection, the broadband plans offered and how the service provider designs its network to cater for multiple end users.

FUN FACT 1

The NBN is expected to employ 15,000 people and take almost ten years to complete.

FUN FACT 2

The NBN is planned to connect more than 13 million premises during the life of this project.





Why the NBN is so important to Australia

Most of Australian homes currently use a copper telecommunications network to connect homes and businesses to the internet. Some of it was laid over 50 years ago, before the internet or mobile phones were invented and before televisions entered Australian homes! Our broadband performance, including speed, cost and coverage, over the copper network is at risk of falling behind the rest of the world.

Even today, many Australians, particularly those living and working in rural and remote areas, either cannot access the internet at all, or have very slow internet connections. The NBN is designed to make sure that everyone has high-speed connections. This means that over the NBN, everyone should be able to easily access the internet, communicate online, and download and upload videos, music and games a lot faster than they can now!

Services provided over the NBN have the potential to improve education and health, help create jobs and offer improved services to businesses regardless of location.

FUN FACT 3

Once the NBN is completed, Australia is expected to rank in the top five nations with the highest proportions of households connected to broadband.



The potential benefits of the NBN

The NBN has the potential to improve the lives of all Australians. Connecting every premises to high-speed broadband provides the potential for that all Australians to easily share common interests and keep in touch and improve their access to business and job opportunities, health, education and government services. It won't matter whether they live and work in cities or in the country.

The NBN aims to support our digital economy and assist Australia to become a global leader in using the online world – the world of the 21st century. It could make possible new and improved ways of connecting with one another, from lifestyle and business to health and education.

The NBN will potentially help all Australians to**

- Search, browse and communicate over a high-speed internet
- Access Internet-connected television streaming videos-on-demand
- Enjoy a high-speed online gaming experience, competing with players all over the world
- Easily access online learning materials from schools, university or educational institutions
- Work from home by connecting online to managers and colleagues
- Receive online care from doctors and other health workers, potentially saving lives, time and money for those who cannot travel to receive medical care
- Build small businesses, located in both cities and country Australia, by the improved ability to trade and communicate online and keep up in a globally connected world

*** End users will need the right software, equipment and in-premises connection to access these services*



For more information

<http://www.nbnco.com.au>

<http://www.nbn.gov.au/>

http://www.dbcde.gov.au/digital_economy