

Term 3 Week 5 Newsletter

Belconnen High School Newsletter



1 - Principal: Rebecca Pearce

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Principal News



Dear Families

The second semester of the school year is well underway. By now all students are settled into classes and their units of work would be well underway. Please check that your child has updated their Google classrooms for their new classes. Unit Outlines are available on our school website under the parent portal tab.

Let's Stay Connected

Last week we had our first virtual assembly. This assembly was planned and developed by students in the SRC with the support of Ms Morris and presented in CARE classes across the school. The theme of the assembly was Let's Stay Connected and focused on highlighting extra-curricular opportunities for all students. These offerings are varied and organised by both passionate students and interested staff. Activities include:

- BLC Chess and Chess Club
- BLC Manga Art
- BLC Makerspace
- School Production
- Guitar Group
- Jazzy Saxes
- Flute Group
- Choir
- Senior Concert Band

- Rainbow Club
- Digital Technology Club
- Technology Club
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Irish Dance
- Art Club
- Student/teacher sport challenges
- School sporting teams

It is fabulous to have such a long list of activities available to students during breaks and after school. These opportunities to connect with others, around shared interests, are enriching for individuals and our school community. I encourage all students to try out a new activity or suggest another activity to the SRC or a staff member so we can look at making it happen.











Carpark reminder

Please be aware that both school car parks are designated 'park in bays only' areas. Repainting of the car park markings will take place over the September/October break and additional signage will be erected. The congestion at peak drop-off and pick-up times, with cars parked in 'no standing' areas make it difficult for ease of travel through the car park. Please discuss with your child a suitable place for drop off or pick up outside of the car parks. Thank you for your support with making these improvements.

COVID 19 and restrictions

We are continuing under the restrictions in place at the end of Term 2. We are unable to plan for gatherings which include groups of visitors coming into the school including parent-teacher interviews. We will send out further information regarding the format for parent-teacher interviews closer to the end of term. Where possible parents and carers should routinely avoid entering school grounds and ensure they practise physical distancing around adults at school.

Rebecca Pearce

A message from the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development



In the ACT there are 88 public schools, over 49,000 public school students and around 3,800 educators. But of course, I understand that for each of us as parents, the most important school is the school our children go to. That's why I want to make sure that every public school is a great school.

The ACT Government is upgrading and expanding public schools to make sure that learning environments are accessible and sustainable.

The government is committed to ensuring that every public school has the infrastructure to support high-quality education and that's why the government is investing in public schools right across the Territory.

Here at Belconnen High School the government has completed \$25.8 million of major modernisation works to create a new contemporary learning environment for students. This initially included the creation and conversion of some indoor learning spaces, landscaping and flexible outdoor learning spaces with shade structures, seating, a synthetic sports area and grass areas. The second stage involved refurbishing the main school building, creating general and specialist modern learning and teaching spaces, breakout and outdoor areas, a new administration and visitor's area, new roof and landscaping works. This extensive modernisation project provides high-quality facilities to support great learning and teaching to families in the local community.

External painting has also been completed as part of the ACT Government's \$35 million fast track stimulus program to support local businesses and keep Canberrans employed.

Every child and family has a place in ACT public schools regardless of their background or life circumstances. That's why this investment into public school infrastructure goes beyond just the basic things that allow learning and teaching to take place. The ACT Government invests in public schools to make sure that every student has what they need to be included, and to learn and develop their interests, passions and life skills.

The ACT Government has upgraded heating and cooling systems, reducing polluting emissions and making temperatures comfortable and conducive to learning in over 40 older public schools across Canberra.

The government also provided 4,000 Chromebooks to schools at the beginning of this school year and a further 3,000 Chromebooks and 500 iPads were purchased for use during the COVID-19 pandemic to assist with remote learning.

Schools have seen upgraded classrooms, toilets, libraries, canteens and bike shelters, as well as gardens, landscaping and playground areas in schools to make sure that these spaces are positive and accommodating.

As Canberra grows, the government is making sure that schools grow with it. Every child has the right to access education and the ACT Government is making sure that this right is equally ensured for every young person.

Yvette Berry MLA

Connecting to Country



Connecting to Country Classes

In semester 2 there are four Connecting to Country classes. Mr Wright has joined with Anne O'Neill in teaching the classes. We have been completing work on Protocols, Orality and Lynne Kelly's memory experiments and Linguistics. Soon we are moving on the Ngunnawal language and stories.

Aboriginal Languages Class

Since the beginning of term we have had three visits to our class.

Davey Newman's Mum, Dr Louise Baird, she is a Linguist at the University of Canberra and she has been working with the Ngunnawal Winganggay Language Group in reawakening the Ngunnawal language. Dr Baird explained her journey of reawakening four languages in Indonesia. She explained the process of working with a community to reawaken a language.

Izy Church's Nan, Karen Coe, a Wiradjuri woman came into the class and told her story of growing up in the Brungle Mission and in Tumut. She explained to the class language, stories of place.



2 - Water as Life: The Town of Wilcannia and the Darling/Baaka, 2006 by Ruby Davies

On Monday, Izy Church's Nan, Glyniss Church, a Barkindji woman joined the class and spoke of her Barkindji Country around Brewarina in western NSW. Glyniss made damper and chicken curry for the students. She told the story of her early life on the Baaka and the happy times with her family and community. The photograph below shows the Baaka without any water. Mrs Hoy and Mrs Pearce joined us in the yarning circle and Mrs Hoy's parents who are travelling and were at Brewarina sent a photo of Baaka.

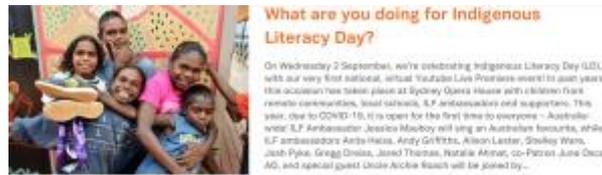


Cultural Integrity Action Team



The Cultural Integrity Action Team have been formed. The members are Anne O'Neill, Tessa Barbour, Nat Ikin, Andrew Wright, Kasie Ryan, Trisha Copas and Anne O'Neill. We are making many plans including working towards a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for Belconnen High School. More information will be given in our next newsletter where we will call for members of our community to join our working party. Have a look at the Reconciliation Australia Education Narragunnawali site <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/narragunnawali/>

Poppi Laine in Year 8 has called for the Belconnen Community to be involved in the Indigenous Literacy Foundation Activities on the 3rd September. Janet Cooke is making plans for the Indigenous Literacy Day where we will focus on literacy and virtual events that are available on the day.



<https://www.indigenoussliteracyfoundation.org.au/>

Humanities News



Catch-up!

Most parents, at some stage, get a message that tells them their child has been 'sent to catch-up'. But what exactly is 'Catch-up'?

Catch-up is a daily lunchtime study program for students who want or need a little quiet space to focus on their schoolwork, catch-up on assignments, get extra tutoring from teachers or even just read a book. While it can seem like a punishment to some students some of the time, its entire focus is on helping students to learn. Students can either attend by simply turning up or via an explicit request from a teacher which is what will cause the SMS to be sent.

At Belconnen High School we aim to work in a triangle; with students, teachers and parents working in partnership to help our young people flourish. If you get an SMS, begin a conversation about how things are going at school and what we can all do to help students to learn.

Humanities Faculty Policy and Plan

Dear Parents,

The Humanities Faculty has been trying to make sure that parents, students and teachers are all on the same page literally and figuratively as we work through 4 years of curriculum and assessment. We invite you to check out this document (link below) and see how we have structured the curriculum and assessment across all four years. You'll also see our gradual ramping up of expectation in terms of homework, assignment and exams. This is all aimed at best preparing the students for life after high school. We have been showing this policy to students and it's been great to see them better understand the four years of learning in context. We think parents will also be

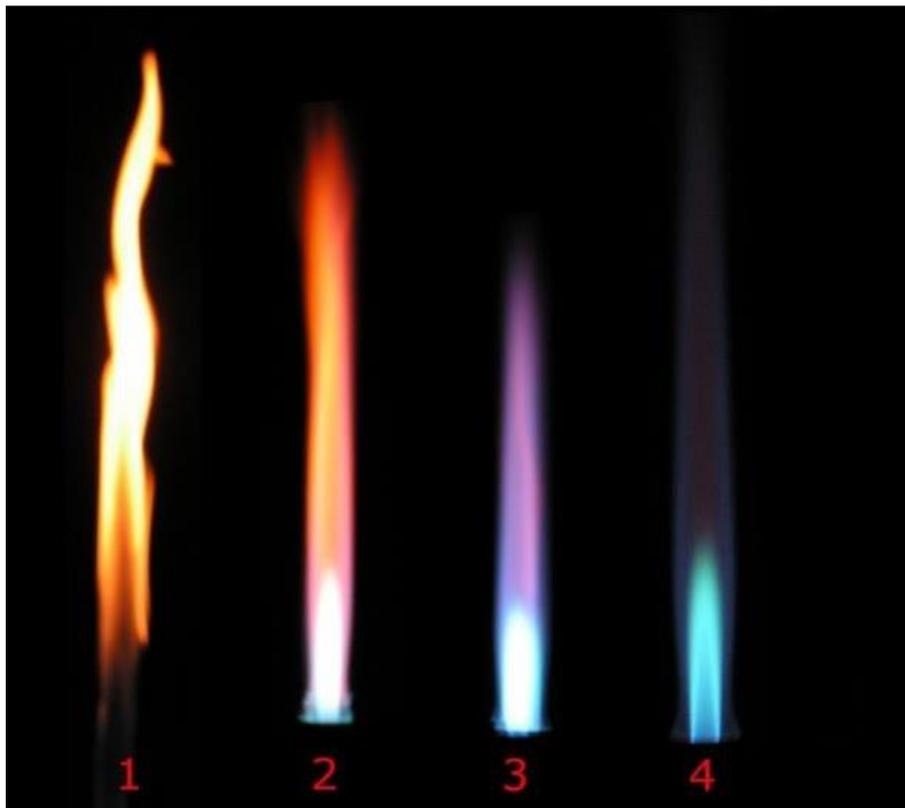
able to see how we are helping students to gain a well rounded, rigorous and engaging education. This policy is not 'final' - and probably never will be, as we always shape our programs to suit circumstances (hello, COVID!!!) so please consider this a 'living document'. If you'd like to offer any feedback, please feel free to email me at

cameron.foster@ed.act.edu.au

Be well,

<https://bit.ly/34g06fT>

Maths / Science



Mr Heeney made videos to share with his students during the remote learning time, and has kept making more since then. Recently some of his students asked "Are they on YouTube?" Up on being told no they weren't, the students responded with, "But they could be..." And thus, the new YouTube channel 'Science with Heen' was born. Various science related videos, from forces, to rain being acidic, to your favourite dinosaur possibly not being a dinosaur!!! YouTube search 'Science with Heen' if you're interested.



Satellite Selfie!!!

On Monday, Year 9 Science students gathered on the oval to spell out “BHS”. This was as part of the Satellite Selfie event. The event was presented by ACT National Science Week and co-hosted by The Australian National University. Just after 10am a satellite flew over at about 26,000 km/h, looked down, and took a photo of Canberra. The resolution of the photo is 50cm, which means anything larger than that can be recognised. The plan was to fly over Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and the best photo would be used. Wednesday was called off due to weather issues, but hopefully when the hi-res photo is released we will be able to view our school acronym as seen from space!



Maths Competition



3 - Maths Competition

"On Thursday week 2, we had 36 students across Year 7 to 10 who participated in the Australian Maths Competition"

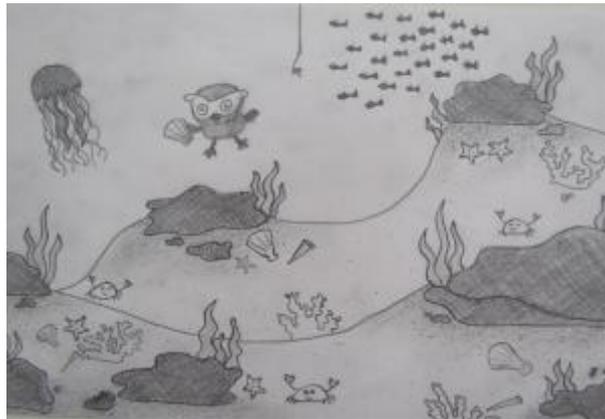
Arts & Technology Faculty News



2D ART

Year 8 students of 2D Art are well and truly underway with their drawing Unit. Students have completed a series of drawings that demonstrate their knowledge of the elements of art and

principles of design. Their portfolio of work is growing with the major drawing piece due soon. Keep up the good work!





3D Art

Year 7 and 8 3D Art Students have had the opportunity to work with the medium of clay this term. They are demonstrating their slab building and clay modelling techniques by constructing a clay container. It's been a pleasure to witness the creativity and problem solving involved with constructing their clay containers and we look forward to viewing their work after the bisque fire.







Year 8 Digital Technology

This week we experimented with virtual reality using Google Cardboard headsets. The headsets work using a smartphone and VR apps available on the Play store.





Performing Arts News





4 - Not Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure

Rehearsals going strong every Wednesday from 3pm - 4.30pm

Year 7 - 10 Drama

We have been rehearsing and developing our characterisation ready for assessment.

Spot the next action movie star?





PE Faculty News



Dance Units

In PE over the last 3 weeks students have been participating in a Dance unit. All students have engaged positively in learning several new line dances and worked collaboratively in groups to create their own movement sequence. It has been very rewarding for the PE staff to watch the students take on leadership roles within this unit.

Health

Next week students will begin Health units in all PE classes, the topics being covered are Puberty, Drugs and Alcohol, Relationships and Party Safe. All assignments will be posted up onto google classroom.

School Sport

School Sport has returned this semester and we will be participating in Soccer and Netball competitions in Term 3. Reminder for all students to keep listening to daily announcements for upcoming trials and training. Good luck to all our teams!

Learning Support News



Life Skills Master Chef

This term in Life Skills we have been learning about nutrition and what it means to have a balanced diet. In order to make the most of our up and coming fresh vegetable garden we decided to make stir fry as our bok choy and radishes were growing out of control and ready to hop into the pan.

We had four different cooking groups who all got to choose their own protein, vegetables and either rice or noodles. The students came up with some great recipes.

Each group had a recipe and a timeframe to follow with basic instructions (after watching a Gordon Ramsey video what could go wrong).

There were wonderful aromas coming from each cooking station and only one bandaid was needed (LSA James went a bit hard core chopping the vegetables).

Thank you to all of our LSA's for being head chefs for the lesson as the students produced some Master Chef worthy stir fry's.







Belconnen Learning Commons News



There are still lots of organised activities happening during breaks such as Giant Chess, Manga drawing and Maker space, as well as board independent activities such as board games, jigsaws and playing cards

Due to Covid, we will be celebrating Book Week in week 2 of next term. The theme this year is "Curious Creatures, Wild Minds". We will be using the Harry Potter series to explore this theme. There will be a "Cupboard under the Stairs", a curious creature drawing competition, "Curious Minds" character quizzes, a treasure hunt, puzzles, maybe even a costume day and much, much more. So all you Potter heads, get excited!.



5 - The latest happenings in the Belconnen Learning Commons are the addition of an IT Help Station. This service will be facilitated by our Information Technology Officer during breaks from next term.



6 - We have also the non-fiction section of the library up and running.

Finance



CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS Due to unprecedented times with Covid 19, Belconnen High School will only be accepting contactless payments until further notice. We welcome your payments via QuickWeb which can be located on the Payments tab on our <http://www.blch.act.edu.au/payment>

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this process for future payments. **FAMILY TRANSACTION STATEMENTS** Due to COVID-19 family transactions statements will be sent to families in Semester 2.

Family Contact Details



It is important that the school maintains an accurate and up to date record of family/carer email addresses, home addresses and telephone numbers for all student. Please let us know if there are changes to your contact details by sending an email to [info BLCH@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:info.BLCH@ed.act.edu.au) or phone the front office on 6142 1690. We are always grateful to receive this information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Student accident/incidents



Ambulance transport for students at school This information is from the ACT Department of Education policy on Student accidents/incidents:

6. AMBULANCE TRANSPORT

6.1. The ACT Ambulance Service provides free ambulance transport for students who are injured or suddenly become ill at school or during approved school activities within the ACT. Free ambulance cover does not apply to students who attend Jarvis Bay School.

7. STUDENT ACCIDENT/INCIDENT

7.1 Schools collect information about injuries and incidents, which occur at school or on school organised activities, on behalf of the Education and Training Directorate. Some of the information may be personal information as defined in the Privacy Act 1988 and the Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997.

The information is usually included in a Student Accident/Incident Report together with any accompanying witness statements or the Notification of a Critical Incident

COVID-19 NEWS



What should I do if my child is sick?

Please do not send your child to school if they are showing any symptoms of sickness. Once your child is well again, they can return to school.

If your child develops any symptoms such as a fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath:

- Call your GP in the first instance. By calling your GP before arriving they can take appropriate infection control measures.
- Call your school to let them know.

COVID-19 Restrictions

COVID-19 restrictions in ACT public schools remain unchanged. You can read more about our current restrictions and view the *Roadmap for ACT Public Schools* on the [Education website](#).

P&C NEWS



P&C – President’s report

Hello everyone

I just thought I’d take a quick opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Julie Marshall and I am the new P&C President for Belconnen High School. I have four children, my oldest daughter is in year ten at Belconnen high. Next year my son will be starting year seven.

I’m new at this role but liking every minute. I’m dedicated to learning and bringing new or existing ideas to the P&C – I’m up for a challenge to try to meet students, teachers and parents’ needs. Watch this space.

While some things have been cancelled or postponed due to the Covid-19 situation, things are looking up so I’m interested to know if you have any ideas for things the P&C could do. I’m happy to listen and discuss and see if we can get the wheels in motion.

I’d like to encourage as many parents as possible to get involved with the P&C, including attending meetings if you can. There is only one each term and you can now attend online, which is easier for many of us.

Some of the topics we touched on at our last meeting included:

- potential to make more use of the grassed area at the front of the school
- a proposal for a year 9/10 Central Australia trip next year
- the School Youth Health Nurse Program set to start at BHS soon
- the BHS School Improvement Plan
- options for how funds raised by the P&C could be used to support the school

I look forward to working with you and hearing your ideas, suggestions and questions (no question is a silly question!)

I would also like to encourage you to join our email list so you can be in the loop with news about meetings and other information – please email bhspnc@gmail.com and we'll add you to the list.

Regards

Julie

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS



A huge Thank You to our school community for your continued support of the uniform shop during these COVID times.

Donations have continued to come in, and sales continue to happen.

A huge shout out to Danielle who has revolutionised shopping at BHS, including the email account for easy ordering. Thanks to our fab P&C treasurer Brian for his assistance in the set up of the EFTPOS machine and direct payment options which are making cashless payments super easy.

If you have any feedback on how these are working for you, or any suggestions of other improvements we can make please contact us via the shop email uniform.shop.bhs@gmail.com

It's not too late to pick up a \$7 red jumper. We sold one to a teacher last week!!! Have you spotted them wearing it at school yet??

Remember that you can always wear a long-sleeved white T-shirt under your BHS shirt if you are worried about the wool being scratchy.

Until further notice, the shop remains closed to walk-in shoppers. Parents please wait till we have contacted you and then come in via the front office.

Better still, send your students to pick it up! Students are always welcome :)

CANTEEN NEWS



Download the app and register with [FlexiSchools](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS



Connect in Canberra: Support for Canberrans to connect during COVID-19

For Information

Kate McMahon, Executive Branch Manager, Learning Wellbeing and Policy Design

The Community Services Directorate has developed the *Wellbeing Calls Service* and *Connect in Canberra* website to keep the community informed and connected through COVID-19. The Wellbeing Calls Service is provided by the Australian Red Cross and is available to all ACT residents who would like to register for a free phone call to feel more connected and less isolated – a friendly chat can make all the difference. Canberrans can call the service on 02 6234 7630 between 8am and 4pm weekdays or register for a call by completing the CSD SmartForm found on

the <https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/connect-in-canberra/Community-Services-and-Support>

The <https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/connect-in-canberra> website is available as an information hub to help you stay in the loop, keep connected, be part of your community and get assistance and support as needed. On the website you can access a range of support services including emergency food relief and visit sections on Supporting Our Neighbours (including a Know Your Neighbour card), Online Safety, Health and Wellbeing, Activities Hub, Kids Corner, What's On and a Community Activities Pack. Resources to disseminate within your school community are attached to this notice, including an information sheet, flier, Know Your Neighbour resources and social media tiles. Please make your school communities aware of this initiative as you see appropriate and feel free to contact the Connect in Canberra team for more information or to make suggestions at

CSDConnectInCanberra@act.gov.au

<https://actedu.sharepoint.com/>

Contact: CSDConnectInCanberra@act.gov.au

Positive Partnerships - Learn more about supporting young people with autism

Positive Partnerships has a new initiative to support families of children with autism. It is called Texts4families. The service is suitable for families of school aged children. Families will receive informative and supportive text messages, directly to their phones, for a period of ten weeks. Texts start on the 1 September. Registrations close on 25 August. The service will support families to learn more about their child's strengths and interests, sensory processing and communication needs, and connect to resources that are evidence based. The service also supports families to consider ways of working with their child's school and other professionals and understand the importance of looking after themselves.

<https://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/>

<https://actedu.sharepoint.com/>

ACT PUBLIC SERVICE
GENERAL NOTICES
NO. 0809 – 12 AUGUST 2020

HOUSING ACT TENANT PARTICIPATION GRANTS PROGRAM

The Tenant Participation Grants (TPG) Program is now open for 2020-2021.

The TPG Program is run by Housing ACT (CSD) and provides ACT social housing households with a grant of up to \$400 per person to get involved within the ACT community.

The primary aim of the Program is to encourage and support social housing tenants to participate in a range of activities for physical, social and personal development.

Given the current COVID-19 pandemic and social restrictions, we feel that now more than ever it's important to deliver this Program and the opportunities it provides to the Canberra community. So, for this year's Program, eligible activities have been expanded to include digital activities, and online classes and memberships to support tenants and their families to participate in a way which conforms to health and social distancing requirements.

Housing ACT greatly appreciate your assistance in raising awareness of the Program and notifying relevant business teams and/or clients and their families.

The TPG Program closes at 5:00pm, Monday 14 September.

For more information please visit www.act.gov.au/tpg

Authorised by Shona Nielsen, Executive Branch Manager, Policy and Business Transformation, Housing ACT, Community Services Directorate



Could \$500 help you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and we'll match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for school costs.

-  laptops & tablets
-  lessons & activities
-  uniforms & shoes
-  books & supplies
-  sports fees & gear
-  camps & excursions

To join Saver Plus, you must be at least 18 years or over, have a child at school or starting next year, or attend vocational education course if have regular income from paid employment (you or your partner), have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card and be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment*



Contact
your local Saver Plus
Coordinator
Phone
1300 610 355
Email
CanberraSP@smithfamily.com.au
Online
saverplus.org.au
Find us on Facebook 



*Using Saver Plus requires the eligible education expenses must be claimed for reimbursement. Saver Plus is not available to the Commonwealth of Australia and NZC education providers with funding from The Government of New Zealand. The Smith Family is not liable for any loss or damage to your data. The program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. For more information, visit www.saverplus.org.au

COVID-19 Education Assistance Package Update 1 May 2020



nbn helping to connect low-income families with homeschooling needs To help Australians respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, nbn is providing up to \$50 million to assist phone and internet providers to support low-income family households with school-aged children who do not currently have an active nbn™ connection at home. This funding will help phone and internet providers create more affordable offers to connect eligible families during term two of school. More than 20 phone and internet providers have agreed to participate in this program. Phone and internet providers that are ready to connect customers as of 1st May 2020 are:

- ☑ Activ8me - <https://www.activ8me.net.au/>
- ☑ Aussie Broadband - <https://www.aussiebroadband.com.au/>
- ☑ IPSTAR Broadband - <https://ipstarbroadband.com.au/products/educationreliefoffer/>
- ☑ SkyMesh - <https://www.skymesh.net.au/>
- ☑ Superloop - <https://www.superloop.com/>
- ☑ Southern Phone - <https://www.southernphone.com.au/>

☐ Flip Connect - <https://www.flipconnect.com.au/nbn/>

An up-to-date list of phone and internet providers participating in the COVID-19 relief and assistance package, that have consented to their details being provided by nbn and are ready to connect customers is available at:

<https://www.nbnco.com.au/response>

What is nbn doing? To help low-income families with school children get connected, nbn will be providing phone and internet providers with rebates against its wholesale charge for many 25/5 Megabits per second speed tier services between April and September. This is intended to enable phone and internet providers to create more affordable offers to connect eligible families.

How do I know if I'm eligible?

If internet access has not been financially possible previously and you have children requiring broadband access for school purposes, then you may qualify for this support. This offer is available only for low-income family households that were not connected to the nbn™ access network before 1 March 2020. You can contact the participating phone and internet provider of your choice today and they will help determine if you are eligible for assistance. A full list is available at <https://www.nbnco.com.au/response>

I think I qualify, who do I contact? You can contact the participating phone and internet provider of your choice today. A full list is available at <https://www.nbnco.com.au/response>

Your school also may have a coordinated approach to home-schooling. Please contact your school for more information.

What will I have to pay?

The assistance period runs from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020. Each phone and internet provider has their own pricing structure and may still charge a fee for monthly access, data costs and account set up fees. How long will it take to get connected to the nbn™ access network? Connection times are taking longer during the COVID-19 pandemic because of high demand. nbn is striving to complete all new connections as quickly as possible. What equipment do I need to get connected? Your phone and internet provider will help with getting you the equipment you need to get connected to the internet. You will require a modem, which many phone and internet providers supply when you sign up. You will also need your own device, such as a computer or tablet, to use the internet. Your school also may have advice about how to get a device to access the internet. I rent my home, am I still able to get the education relief assistance? Yes. Please inform your landlord that you wish to have the nbn™ access network connected. By agreement with your landlord, you are then able to order an nbn™ powered plan from the internet provider of your choice. Make sure the internet provider you choose is offering the education relief assistance. A full list of phone and internet providers is available at <http://www.nbnco.com.au/response>

Will the nbn™ service automatically end when the assistance period is over?

NBN will begin charging phone and internet providers normal prices for services at the end of the assistance period. Your chosen phone and internet provider will have a transition plan in place once the education relief package ends. Please contact your phone and internet provider to ask what happens at the end of the assistance period and make sure you agree and understand any ongoing costs.

What if I already have an nbn™ powered plan and I'm experiencing financial hardship during COVID-19? Phone and internet providers can help with financial hardship in some circumstances. Please contact your current phone and internet provider to learn more. For further information, including tips and tricks for using the internet and a list of participating phone and internet providers, visit <http://www.nbnco.com.au/response>