

Shire of Dardanup Libraries, WA



eSmart Libraries Coordinator: Dean Pitts

eSmart Working Group (L-R)

Dean Pitts, Library Systems & Technology;
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Where are you at in your eSmart Libraries journey?

We are now accredited as an eSmart Library!

With the framework put in place during the planning and implementing stage our service continues to sustain the principles of eSmart.

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What have been the most challenging aspects of your eSmart Libraries journey so far?

It was often difficult to dedicate the resources and time needed to implement the framework. However, as we continued to put systems and procedures in place the process became easier to coordinate.

How does eSmart Libraries fit in with the day-to-day processes already in place at your library?

The eSmart framework has enhanced our knowledge and understanding of key cyber safety principles. All staff have the confidence and understanding to provide information to library users and the community. Cyber safety is no longer simply a side issue but a consistent, overarching theme in our approach to technology.

What advice did you provide to the community on how to manage cyber safety prior to implementing eSmart?

We had a set of brochures provided by Telstra that we would hand out to customers who enquired about cyber safety. We would also give short pointers during eBook workshops with only a few of the staff feeling confident to discuss cyber safety principles with customers.

Do you feel eSmart will benefit members of the community who do not have access to digital technologies at home?

Absolutely, many in our community use the library as their only access to internet, email and social media. eSmart is hugely beneficial to them as they use this technology in a safe and cyber-aware environment.

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What do you believe are or will be the benefits of implementing eSmart Libraries?

The eSmart program is one of the most significant community cyber safety initiatives undertaken in Australia, building and sustaining digital skills and cyber safety for the community, library users, and library staff.

As an eSmart Library serving a vibrant community, we strive to remain at the forefront of evolving technologies, equipping library users with the confidence to navigate safely, ethically and legally.

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