

Libraries

Equipping library staff and members with the skills they need for smart, safe and responsible use of digital technology

Public libraries are the most heavily used community centres in Australia and reach out to some of the most disadvantaged members of our society. Close to a third of the population are public library members, who make more than 110 million visits a year to 1,500 public libraries across Australia.

More than 80 per cent of these libraries are participating in eSmart Libraries.

The eSmart Libraries framework has been developed from a holistic and evidence-based approach, and considers how the library and community can develop smart, safe and responsible digital behaviours.

There is no fee for public libraries to join, and libraries gain access to the framework, resources, newsletters and support.

eSmart Libraries is a partnership between the Foundation and the Telstra Foundation and is one of the most significant community cyber safety initiatives ever undertaken in Australia. The Telstra Foundation has invested \$8 million to implement eSmart Libraries in all 1,500 public

libraries as part of their commitment to make a positive and lasting difference to communities across Australia.

A recent survey of registered libraries across the country revealed that 100 per cent of library managers:

- feel competent and confident online to support library users to use technology in the library
- state that eSmart Libraries has made a difference to cyber safety and the management of cyber bullying
- would recommend eSmart Libraries to another library service.