

Invitation to comment

This paper raises key issues and many further questions for consideration. The questions posed at the end of each section throughout the paper are summarised below. Comment is encouraged on these issues and questions related to the social and community impacts of ICT. We would like to hear your views and your own experiences.

The period for consultation on the papers is open for several months, ending on **31 March 2005**.

This paper, the companion paper and the full set of case studies are available online (see www.dcita.gov.au/ie/community_connectivity).

The Department welcomes submissions in the form of responses to the discussion questions, comments or further information. Interested parties are encouraged to provide written submissions and comments on the papers by email to community.connectivity@dcita.gov.au.

Submissions and comments can also be made in hard copy. They should be sent to:

The Manager
Community Connectivity
Access Branch
Information Economy Division
Department of Communications, IT and the Arts
GPO Box 2154 Canberra ACT 2601

Submissions and comments can be faxed to 02 6271 1780. Please note that faxed submissions should be no more than five pages long.

Interested parties can provide verbal comments on the papers:

The role of ICT in the building communities and social capital

Please contact: Dr Deborah West,
Community Connectivity, Access Branch DCITA
Tel: 02 6271 1645

ICT transforming the nonprofit sector

Please contact: Ms Mary Gorman,
Community Connectivity, Access Branch DCITA
Tel: 02 6271 1689

Or contact

Mr Peter Huta
Manager Community Connectivity
Tel: 02 6271 1047

Summary of discussion points

The environment for uptake and use of ICT

What evidence and research is available to indicate the state of ICT readiness of the nonprofit sector in Australia?

What further work needs to be done to gain a reliable picture of the ICT capacity and ICT needs of the nonprofit sector and of nonprofit organisations?

What is the role of governments, the business sector and civil society in advancing this research?

What can Australian nonprofit organisations learn from the experience of overseas nonprofit sectors?

Do Australian nonprofit organisations face the same challenges as overseas organisations?

Are there any overseas approaches to assisting nonprofit organisations with their ICT needs that might be worth considering in Australia? How might they need to be modified?

Nonprofit organisations using ICT to build capacity and capability

What factors are restricting nonprofits' ability to use ICT to build capability and community capacity?

What barriers or impediments affect nonprofits' take-up and effective use of ICT?

What factors are important to the successful use of ICT by nonprofit organisations?

How might nonprofit organisations best identify and aggregate their needs and demand for broadband, ICT procurement, training and technical support?

What factors—such as delivering government services, government reporting requirements—drive nonprofits to adopt and use ICT?

What types of assistance do nonprofit organisations require to improve their capacity and capability to make effective use of ICT?

What role should government and the business sector play in assisting nonprofit organisations?

Is there a role for larger nonprofits fostering access to ICT and effective use of ICT for smaller organisations?

To what extent should industry (for example welfare or community arts) sectors be considered in programs to promote nonprofit adoption of ICT?

What role should government, including local government, play in developing social capital through the nonprofit sector?

How are nonprofits using ICT to build social capital for their clients and members and in the wider community? Please give specific examples.

