INTERNET AT HOME TO BOOST EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Australian Government has established the School Student Broadband Initiative to provide **free home internet** for one year for up to 30,000 unconnected families with school aged students.

Families will be identified by schools, education authorities, charities and community organisations participating in the initiative - these are nominating organisations.

This is a targeted affordability measure to boost education opportunities and narrow the digital divide. NBN Co is leading implementation of this initiative.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible, a family must:

- ✓ Have a child living at home that is enrolled in an Australian school in 2023.

- ✓ Not have an active National Broadband Network internet service at home. Having a mobile internet service does not affect eligibility.

- ✓ Be referred by a nominating organisation. This will include consideration of whether the child has access to a device and the digital skills to use the internet safely.

- ✓ Live in a premises that can access the National Broadband Network via a standard connection – this will be checked by **NBN** Co.

How does the School Student Broadband Initiative work?

The home internet service will be provided to students and their families for one-year by a participating internet provider over the National Broadband Network at no cost. The one-year period starts from the day the service is activated.

Internet providers will help families to set up their connection and offer technical assistance. The initiative does not include devices such as a computer or tablet. Other members of the household can also use the internet service provided through this initiative.

At the end of the one-year period, families should not be placed onto a paid service by the internet provider without consent. The Australian Government is considering options beyond the one-year free period.

How can families stay safe online?

Children should be safe while learning and playing online. The eSafety Commissioner has a number of resources that you can provide to families following their nomination. Resources for parents can be found at www.esafety.gov.au/parents.

eSafety also has a range of resources to teach online safety and professional learning programs for educators, free of charge. Visit www.esafety.gov.au/educators/training-for-professionals for more information.

Where can I find additional information on the initiative?

For more information on the School Student Broadband Initiative visit www.infrastructure.gov.au/SSBI