

MEDIA RELEASE

An online education roadshow will travel throughout regional SA to assist businesses and individuals to make the most of the arrival of the National Broadband Network.

It was announced by Minister for Regional Australia, The Hon Simon Crean MP this week that Regional Development Australia Far North (RDAFN) and Regional Development Australia Yorke & Mid North (RDAYNM) have received \$50,000 for their joint project.

RDAFN Chief Executive Officer Claire Wiseman welcomed the announcement and said communities from the Yorke Peninsula through to Coober Pedy will benefit from the roadshow.

“For many businesses, especially those in regional areas, having an online presence can be daunting as many are unaware of how to go about it and what the benefits are.”

“For those businesses to remain strong when online shopping is increasing, we need to provide them with the skills, confidence and resources to keep their business viable and open their worlds up to the new opportunities the internet brings,” Ms Wiseman said.

“With improved internet services through the arrival of the NBN in the region, through both fibre and satellite in the very near future, this Roadshow will greatly benefit regional businesses.”

Ms Wiseman said the Roadshows will also target youth and community groups.

“Through the roadshows we will provide guidance, education and information to regional businesses and communities about how to connect to the NBN and use the internet for personal and commercial benefit. Through schools, the Roadshow will also engage with youth through so they can become advocates in their communities and take the information back to their families at home.”

Regional Development Australia Yorke & Mid North (RDAYNM) CEO Kelly-Anne Saffin said she was also delighted with the announcement.

“The funding for the NBN Roadshow means that we can provide intensive services to businesses to assist in getting them on-line and transacting e-business in the global marketplace. The Connect websites also gives us a greater opportunity to maximise local business participation in the roll-out of NBN.”

The Roadshows will take place in 2013.

Port Augusta will be the first community in the region to have an NBN fibre connection, with construction set to start at the end of this year. Port Pirie, Quorn, Crystal Brook, Clare and Kadina are among towns in the two RDA areas which are set to have construction on a NBN fibre connection commenced in the next three years.

An NBN interim satellite service is already available and the full satellite service is due for completion in 2015, which will mean many people in regional and remote areas will have access to the NBN before their metropolitan counterparts.

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Media enquiries:

Claire Wiseman
Chief Executive Officer
Regional Development Australia Far North
08 8641 1444

Or

Kelly-Anne Saffin
Chief Executive Officer
Regional Development Australia Yorke & Mid North
1300 742 414