

THIS IS IT

EQUALISING EDUCATION THROUGH
THE REPURPOSING OF LAPTOPS



Social Impact and Rationale

Financial stress is one of the major blockers to students successfully engaging in secondary education. The Federally funded youth engagement program, Youth Connections, showed that of the 14,566 disengaged or disengaging students across Victoria, 4,939 (33.9%) identified that financial distress was one of the major factors for their disengagement.

In the South East region of Melbourne, made up of the City of Greater Dandenong, City of Casey and Cardinia Shire, the percentage of young people that identified financial distress as one of the major factors for their disengagement was 52.4%, that is 54% high than Victoria's average.

There are several major expenses in getting secondary students to school. Uniforms, books and computers. Where families are struggling to make ends meet, there are programs to assist with the costs of uniforms and second hand book options, but nothing to assist in providing laptops.

Additional Information

Most schools have a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy, requiring students to provide their own laptops. Anecdotally schools report that between 10 and 15% of their students do not have their own laptops, despite the fact that they are a required learning tool.

With almost 40,000 secondary students in the region, this equates to between 4,000 and 6,000 students that do not have their own laptop. Laptops are a required item because:

- Many text books are now only available in soft copy and downloaded to BYOD.
- Some curriculum areas in some schools can only be accessed by computer, eg Mathematics Pathways
- Standardised testing is now moving to online versions

Within the region:

- Schools have laptops available for students to borrow, but do not have enough to meet the demand.
- Students often cannot take the computers home to complete their work.
- Students are often not allowed to save their work on school provided laptops, as they may have a different computer the following day.
- One of our local schools has enough loan computers for almost 20% of their student population, yet it is not enough to meet the demand.

Students that do not have their own computer report increased levels of anxiousness and being identified by their peers as being different. Going without reduces their ability to access and succeed in education and can be a cause of disengagement.

FOUNDING PARTNERS:



THIS IS IT

EQUALISING EDUCATION THROUGH
THE REPURPOSING OF LAPTOPS



At a time when Australians are disposing of more than 600,000 tons of e-waste per annum and the Victorian Government is banning the dumping on e-waste as of July 1st, 2019, it is becoming critical the we look at ways of re-using or re-purposing.

The This Is 'IT' initiative has the potential of being the perfect partnership, addressing disadvantage by equalizing education whilst reducing e-waste levels.

Specifications

In order to make the computers a valuable learning tool, there are minimum essential and recommended specification requirements that the initiative is looking for.

It is **essential** that donated laptops will:

- Have Windows 10, or the capacity to have Windows 10 OS or Apple OSX 10.10+
 - **Processor:** 1 gigahertz (GHz) or faster processor or SoC
 - **RAM:** 1 gigabyte (GB) for 32-bit or 2 GB for 64-bit
 - **Hard disk space:** 16 GB for 32-bit OS 20 GB for 64-bit OS
- Be able to access wireless networks
- Have a physical keyboard (i.e. not an on-screen keyboard)
- Have all charging cables and converters

It is **recommended** that donated laptops will:

- Be cleaned of all data and software (we can do this for you if required)
- Have a battery life of at least 4 hours
- Have a screen size of at least 12" (diagonally)

Quote:

"Schools are trying to prepare their students for the future, this is extremely difficult when students do not have access to the tools they require. Computers are an absolute necessity and this initiative is a game changer for the students lucky enough to be the recipient of a laptop." Secondary School Principal

"This will allow me to complete my work and stay up to date when I am on work placements and cannot be at school. I will not have to stress about going to the library or staying at school after hours to complete my work." Recipient of a computer through the This Is 'IT' initiative.

For further information please contact:

Andrew Simmons

0488 003 036

info@thisisitschools.com.au

FOUNDING PARTNERS:



THIS IS IT

EQUALISING EDUCATION THROUGH
THE REPURPOSING OF LAPTOPS



Case Study

YP is a 16 year old male, at the age of fifteen he left home and became homeless due to family relationship breakdowns. He communicated that he suffers from anxiety and approximately 1-2 years ago, he attempted suicide due to the home environment. YP further stated that there was a lot of verbal abuse towards him, perpetrated by his step father, hence the reason for his decision to leave the family home.

When he left the home, he had no money / access to money, no belongings except a small bag with some clothing in it, no identification and no support.

YP is currently enrolled at a local Secondary College, completing his VCE Year 11 doing General Maths, English and a VET subject in electronics. YP also studies Art which is his main passion. His goal is to continue his education at RMIT and completing an Arts Degree.

He is very talented with graphic arts and recently developed a passion for canvas art /painting.

YP was referred into the Navigator program through his school and voluntarily requested support from the program.

YP attended a local housing association, to seek emergency accommodation support. Navigator advocated on YP's behalf and negotiated emergency accommodation for him in St Kilda and Moorabbin. Following this, a youth refuge was located and a six week placement was offered to YP as crisis accommodation. He was allocated a case worker to assist him finding permanent accommodation.

The Navigator Case Worker is working closely with housing agencies to stabilise YP's life and put supports in place, which allow him to continue attend schooling. YP is currently attending school most days and independently travels from Mt Martha to Cranbourne each day.

YP is now travelling two hours each way, by public transport to get to and from school. He does not get there everyday but is doing the best he can under the circumstances.

YP was the first recipient of a laptop through the This Is 'IT' initiative. He is now doing well and can access his schooling, study at home, complete assignments, submit work and communicate with case workers and educators when he cannot get to school.

FOUNDING PARTNERS:

