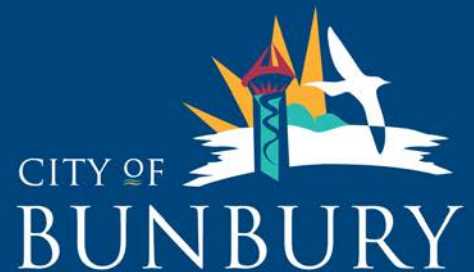


MEDIA STATEMENT



Monday, 7 May 2018

Bunbury libraries become eSmart

Bunbury Public Library and the Withers Community Library have become WA's latest library services to achieve accreditation through the Alannah and Madeline Foundation's eSmart Libraries framework.

eSmart Libraries, delivered in partnership with the Telstra Foundation, helps libraries to incorporate digital literacy and improve cybersafety while offering patrons ways to deal with cyberbullying.

Since its launch in 2012, more than 75 per cent of Australia's public libraries have registered for eSmart, a community initiative committed to broadening specialist digital skills and resources to promote positive use of digital technology in Australia.

Alannah and Madeline Foundation's CEO, Lesley Podesta, said being eSmart meant having the knowledge to guard against security and privacy risks, to research and download content in an ethical and legal manner, and manage reputation and relationship-based issues online.

Bunbury Library Manager Sharon Chapman said both the Bunbury Public Library and Withers Community Library were working with the community to provide safe access and education in using digital technology through initiatives such as offering free basic computing workshops and free Wi-Fi.

"More and more services are going online, but a lot of people in our community don't have their own devices or access so they come to us for help, and this is our response to be able to provide that safely," Ms Chapman said.

"eSmart Libraries accreditation gives us skills, information and resources to guide and educate all our users to enjoy using technology while understanding the potential risks."

For more information on eSmart go to <http://www.esmart.org.au> or www.amf.org.au

ENDS

On Tuesday 29 May a morning tea will be held at 11am at the Bunbury Public Library to celebrate this milestone.

All media are welcome to attend.

Lee-Maree Gallo, Media and Communications Officer
T: 0428 201 253 **E:** imgallo@bunbury.wa.gov.au

4 Stephen Street, Bunbury WA 6230 - PO Box 21 Bunbury WA 6231 **T:** (08) 9792 7000
TTY: 13 36 77 **F:** (08) 9792 7184 **E:** contact@bunbury.wa.gov.au **W:** www.bunbury.wa.gov.au