The Smith Family

everyone's family

THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Does it impact on students in 2019?

March 2019

The Smith Family

- National children's charity
- Established in 1922
- Works to help disadvantaged young Australians succeed at school

Delivering *Learning for Life* programs in

94

COMMUNITIES

The Smith Family

everyone's family

More than 1.1 million Australian children and young people

The Smith Family

everyone's family

1 in 6 Children living in poverty

What does that have to do with the digital divide?

Digital Divide

- Mostly effects those on low levels of income, education and employment
  - The Australian Digital Inclusion Index Report 2018 says people in the lowest household income quintile have a digital inclusion score of 41.3 which is 30.8 points lower than those in the highest household income quintile (72.1)

- Digital access for disadvantaged students

Is it only about not having internet access or a device at home?

- Access
  - To a device and internet
- Affordability
  - How much is being spent v's the household income
- Ability
  - How people are using their technology

What if ?

- You only have access to a smart phone to do homework on?
- there is one computer at home with 3 kids trying to do homework
- there is only 2GB mobile data for the family each month?
- the device the family uses is 7 years old? the family computer has a virus that means it is so slow? and no one knows how to fix it?
- you only have internet when mum/dad has some spare money
- Your school has a BYOD policy but you don’t have a device you can take to school

- BYOD policies
- Older devices & programs
- Limited internet

The Smith Family

everyone's family

The Smith Family

everyone's family

30%

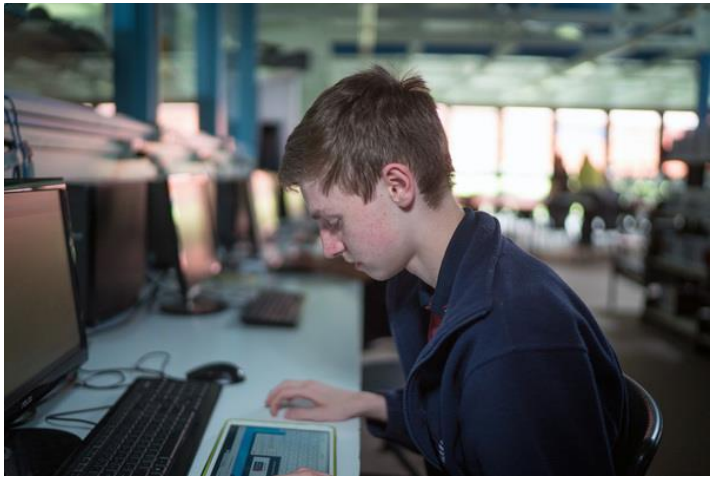
LOWER YEAR 12 COMPLETION RATE

2+

YEARS BEHIND IN READING & MATHS

But this isn't all…..

- 2017 NAP ICT scores, only 25% of low SES year 10 students reached the national digital proficiency level (compared to 66% for high SES).
- 90% of future jobs will require digital literacy skills
- Yet often disadvantaged students are not being prepared for the jobs of the future



Young people told us

- *“You can’t do anything without the internet”*
- Mobile phone, computer and internet access at home essential esp phone
- Computer and internet supports engagement in school and learning
- Not having them can impact engagement and well being
- Many without home internet relied on free WiFi in local community

What are we doing to help disadvantaged students be digitally included

- Digital Access Program
  - “I am very grateful for the use of the internet access device it has helped my son be able to do his work at home in his own time and safety were I can help him”
- Tech Pros
  - “The best thing was learning how to do coding and having awesome teachers helping us”
- Young ICT Explorers Accelerator Program
  - 94% of teachers reported students improved their ICT skills

What will you do to address the digital divide in your school?

everyone's family