

supporting e-learning opportunities

Community Engagement

building creative e-learning partnerships

Australians in regional, rural and remote communities face some unique challenges in accessing education and training opportunities due to isolation, distance and a lack of teaching and learning programs.

Technology can, and is, making a difference, enabling more and more people to access education and training regardless of their age, location or background.

In 2006, the national training system's e-learning strategy, the Australian Flexible Learning Framework, funded six projects to foster and embed e-learning in some of these communities.

Murraylands E-Reach

Aim: To embed the concept of e-learning, its tools and capabilities in the Murraylands – a region in South Australia covering 30,000 square kilometres comprising rural and remote farming communities. The Murraylands has a below average level of qualifications.

Learning model: Murraylands Youth Sector Network set up online communication training – focusing on video conferencing - for teachers, community house coordinators and others who worked with young people.

Video conferencing was then used in the delivery of work ready training, which covered three competencies from the Retail Operations Flexible Learning Toolbox. Digital storytelling workshops were also delivered to various community organisations.

Outcomes: The *Murraylands E-Reach* video conferencing room has been accessed by many community organisations, many of whom are now using the technology for online meetings. One community house coordinator said that video conferencing “cuts down the tyranny of distance for rural community education providers trying to engage with city-based learning and training organisations”.

Partners: Murraylands Regional Development Board, the Employment and Skills Formation Network, Murray Mallee Community Education Network, Tailem Bend Community House, Mid Murray Leadlights, and CANH (Community and Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association).

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