



# Robyn Preston MP

## Member for Hawkesbury

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Friday, 23 October 2020

### **HAWKESBURY SENIORS SKILL-UP IN GET ONLINE WEEK**

Seniors in Hawkesbury are being encouraged to enhance their digital skills by enrolling in technology training programs during Get Online Week.

Local member for Hawkesbury, Robyn Preston MP, said it is vital no one is left behind as the Hawkesbury community continues to embrace technology.

“Get Online Week revealed around four million Australians have low digital skills. So let’s change that and help our seniors to access services, do personal business online or use email and social media to communicate,” Ms Preston said.

“Even if seniors have little or no digital experience they can join fun and practical classes to develop the skills and confidence needed to benefit from technology.”

Participating libraries and community colleges across NSW are now taking enrolments for low-cost or free training through the NSW Government’s Tech Savvy Seniors program.

Tech Savvy Seniors offers a range of courses including a basic introduction to using tablets, computers, smartphones, email or social media.

With accessibility at the centre of all training, courses can be also be delivered in Auslan and languages other than English.

Acting Minister for Seniors Geoff Lee said NSW Seniors Card statistics show more than half of the state’s older residents use smartphones, tablets or laptops but we can improve the amount of seniors utilising social media to connect with family and friends.

“Being skilled in an increasingly digital world is vital for our seniors to stay connected with their family and friends especially during the COVID-19 pandemic,” Mr Lee said.

“While our seniors are better connected than ever, with more than 70 percent accessing the internet daily, we can improve on this to ensure all older people have the opportunity to use and benefit from this technology.”

The NSW Government’s partnership with Telstra has ensured thousands of people over 60 have completed training at more than 180 locations across the state.

Social inclusion is a key priority of the NSW Ageing Strategy, part of the NSW Government’s commitment to meeting the needs of our ageing population.

For more information on local courses, visit: <https://www.telstra.com.au/tech-savvy-seniors>