



Media Release

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nbn linking regional Australia to eHealth

New research shows the **nbn**[™] network is linking regional Australians to eHealth, bridging the digital divide between country and city.

Conducted on behalf of the **nbn** by independent researchers Evolve Research, the **nbn**[™] Broadband Index is a survey of more than 10,000 Australians. It reveals how Australians are using broadband for health reasons, among other many other social and economic benefits.

It shows people in both metro and regional areas are using the internet to better access health advice from home and work, cutting travel time.

Regional Australians are increasingly likely to use their **nbn**[™] connection to manage their health condition with the help of remote access to city specialists, book an appointment with a specialist, or to look up general wellbeing information.

The study found five per cent of consumers surveyed nationally have consulted a health practitioner online.

Meanwhile, regional Australians were more likely than metro Australians to:

- seek information online because of a perception there was no suitable health provider or specialist locally
- have a condition requiring a regular scheduled consultation with a medical professional (22 per cent more likely than city counterparts)
- look up symptoms for a condition online
- say they'd engaged with professionals online, booked appointments, accessed health and wellbeing programs and electronic records because of access to better internet.

The **nbn**[™] Broadband Index confirmed regional Australians are using the internet more than neighbours not yet connected to the **nbn**[™] network.

nbn spokesperson, **Russell Kelly, said:**

“It is a time to enjoy the company of family and friends – and the internet can provide a wealth of information and support for rebooting your life in the New Year.

“The **nbn** Broadband Index findings show the enormous positive benefit of the nbn for regional Australia.”



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Notes to editors

- The **nbn**[™] Broadband Index is online [here](#)

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