

Thursday 11 August 2005

MORE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS TO GET ONLINE

The Minister for Information and Communication Technology, Marsha Thomson, today announced a \$400,000 funding boost to help more Victorian communities get online as part of the successful *My Connected Community* program.

Minister Thomson urged community groups to apply for the \$10,000 or \$30,000 grants to establish virtual meeting places where community groups could interact online.

“*My Connected Community* offers Victorians the support and tools necessary to establish a website, publish online and communicate with like-minded communities from Australia and around the world,” Ms Thomson said.

In this funding round, groups that focus on senior Victorians, including seniors from non-English speaking backgrounds, recent migrants, unemployed Victorians, those outside the education system and workforce and people with a disability are encouraged to apply.

“These are exactly the people that the *My Connected Community* program aims to benefit, providing support and training to assist in breaking down the barriers to accessing and using the Internet,” Ms Thomson said.

“*My Connected Community* encourages the development of more relevant and useful content for these groups. Importantly, all online facilities of the program are available to successful grant applicants.

“The Bracks Government continues to encourage Victorian community groups to create their own online groups. We have committed more than \$5 million to the *My Connected Community* program since it was established in 2001.

“Our commitment to ICT being used by all Victorian communities is clear, with more than 3,000 online groups already being established through the *My Connected Community* program.”

For further information, application forms and guidelines, contact the My Connected Community Secretariat at VICNET on 1800 629 835 or 8664 7001 during business hours or visit the *My Connected Community* website at <http://mc2.vicnet.net.au>

Applications for the *My Connected Community* grants close at 4pm Thursday 22 September, 2005.