

Local to global learning and beyond

Technology is an essential teaching enabler for schools in Queensland, with all students having internet access for finding information and communicating with teachers and classmates.

With broadband, students and teachers can move beyond the classroom to collaborate online with other schools and students worldwide.

Global classrooms

Students at Hermit Park Primary School in Townsville use the internet to work on school projects with pupils in Denmark, the Netherlands, Finland and Sri Lanka. Year six students from schools in these countries are together researching ways to save rainforests in Borneo that will protect orangutans while still providing jobs for forest workers.

‘Our students can share ideas with children from a wide range of cultures’, said school principal, Clayton Carnes. ‘It helps them understand different opinions and other points of view.’

‘The school’s current broadband connection was adequate two years ago. School staff use the internet for staff development and require a high-speed connection for information such as online learning resources. Added to the increasing use of the internet for online voice and video collaboration, the high speed offered by the National Broadband Network (NBN) can’t come too soon’, said Clayton.

Media-rich learning

At St Peters Lutheran College in Brisbane, with 2800 users on their network, the broadband issue is quite different.

The school already has high-speed connections of up to 1 gigabit per second on the educational AARNet network. It is also trialling a package that includes a mailbox and 25 gigabytes of storage for each student.

The arrival of the NBN will allow the school to expand the reach of its services to students, parents and staff in their homes. At the moment, home internet connections for students and teachers are varied and this limits the school’s scope for extending and promoting learning resources beyond the school’s physical boundaries. With the NBN, students and parents will be able to receive and upload information at up to 1 gigabit per second.

With these new consistently high network speeds across the school community, rich media (video, audio, animation) — which is at the heart of good learning design — can be incorporated widely into the school’s learning resources.

St Peters is poised to take advantage of this opportunity and is currently developing a learning management system that allows teachers to create these media-rich resources both at home and at school.

The NBN will provide high-speed connection to educational facilities, businesses and homes right across Australia. The Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation aims to promote and encourage the adoption and best use of broadband communications by Queensland businesses and industry sectors, to create a competitive digital economy.

For further information on broadband communication contact DSITI on 13 74 68 or visit www.business.qld.gov.au