



**Casey  
Cardinia  
Libraries**

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

6 October 2020

## **‘The Hills Hub Laptop Project’ gets Emerald Residents Online**

The Hills Hub, Casey Cardinia Libraries (Emerald) and Echo Youth and Family Services have joined forces to help locals bridge the digital divide.

One in seven Victorians do not have access to the internet at home. The project will mean community members can get connected digitally with family and friends and access online support services and activities.

Laptops are available loan from the Emerald Library for up to 3 months. A free mentoring program where participants are matched with a trained IT buddy/mentor is also on offer.

Older residents and low-income families are more likely to be socially isolated and disadvantaged during the coronavirus pandemic due to a lack of access to the internet and a device such as a laptop.

Mentors provide one on one support to assist participants to use their laptop and access online support services. A limited number of pre-paid wifi devices have also been donated by St Marks Emerald for eligible participants who do not have internet available at home.

Casey Cardinia Libraries, CEO Chris Buckingham said: We are delighted to be working in partnership with the Hills Hub to get people connected. The Emerald Library has traditionally offered free wi-fi and access to PCs, while our branch remains closed to the community, this project helps people get online.

If you or anyone you know would benefit from participating in this program, please send an email to [hills.hub@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:hills.hub@cardinia.vic.gov.au) or call the Hills Hub Place Maker on 5943 4650.

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### **Photo opportunity**

To arrange a photo opportunity please contact Erin Commerford.

Casey Cardinia Libraries is a network of public library services throughout Melbourne's south-east metropolitan corridor with branches located at Cranbourne, Doveton, Emerald, Endeavour Hills, Hampton Park, Narre Warren and Pakenham. A weekly Mobile library service also visits sites throughout Cardinia Shire. Library membership is free and open to everyone.

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