18 July 2018

**Infoxchange and Google spring to Perth to address Australia’s digital divide**

Digital Springboard, a new program from Infoxchange and Google.org, launches in Perth this week to help Australians gain new digital skills, further their career and prepare for the future.

More than 400 participants are expected to attend courses at Perth Town Hall over the next two days in a series of events that mark Digital Springboard’s debut in Western Australia.

The program aims to ensure Australians have the digital skills they need to succeed by providing face-to-face training to help them build confidence with online tools and prepare for new opportunities.

“Many of the people who have the most to gain from the social, educational and financial benefits of being online are missing out. Digital Springboard offers a chance to improve the digital skills of diverse and marginalised communities, while also supporting transitions to work and career growth,” said David Spriggs, CEO of Infoxchange.

Working with partners in Western Australia including The Clontarf Foundation, Linkwest and a growing list of community groups, libraries and not-for-profits, Digital Springboard will provide in-person training across the state for the remainder of the year.

“We believe that technology has the power to connect people, create opportunities, and inspire change. But we also understand that some Australians don’t feel like they have the skills they need to succeed in today’s digital economy. That’s why we’re working with Infoxchange to deliver Digital Springboard and help people to prepare for the future, whether they want to learn how to get started online or expand their skills,” said Richard Flanagan, Head of Brand and Business Marketing, Google Australia.

The Clontarf Foundation’s General Manager for Employment Marcus Harrold said “The Clontarf Foundation is very appreciative of the support that Infoxchange and Google have provided our young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students across the country. The workshops and subsequent skills that our students have acquired will only further enhance their employment prospects and preparedness for the future. The world is moving extremely fast and so it is vital that we allow all our students access to the most up-to-date technology”.

Jane Chilcott, CEO of Linkwest said, “As a peak organisation that represents 150 community managed nonprofits across WA, our members are increasingly working with vulnerable people who are struggling to access various government and business services online. This is a vital program which will be provided through our network to people across Western Australia.”

The Australia Digital Inclusion Index suggests that the digital divide is widening and there is a growing need for Australians to be able to use, configure or build digital systems.

Digital Springboard courses provide job readiness skills such as building a CV and writing cover letters in a digital world, as well as more in-depth topics such as social media strategy and an introduction to coding.

Community organisations and not-for-profits who are interested in being part of the program can find out more via the Digital Springboard website.

For media enquiries, please contact:
Clare Creegan, Google – ccreegan@google.com – +61 418 433 514
Rachel Brown, Infoxchange – rbrown@infoxchange.org – +61 3 9418 7428 / +61 404 416 378

About Infoxchange

Infoxchange is a not-for-profit social enterprise that has delivered technology for social justice for over 25 years.

With over 100 staff across Australia and New Zealand we tackle the biggest social challenges through the smart and creative use of technology.

We work with community, government and corporate partners to solve family violence, homelessness, mental health and issues facing people with disabilities, the elderly, Aboriginal, Maori and Pasifika communities.

Our products and services are used by over 7500 organisations across the community sector. We provide the right tools to improve efficiency and deliver greater impact – from nation-wide service coordination systems to IT advice for individual organisations.

Our community programs focus on digital inclusion. We use technology to improve the lives of vulnerable people, driving social inclusion and creating stronger communities. We believe no-one should be left behind in today’s digital world.

About Google.org

Google.org brings the best of Google to innovative nonprofits that are committed to creating a world that works for everyone.

When everyone has the chance to succeed, we all prosper. That’s why Google.org supports organisations that use technology and innovation to power an economy in which more people have an opportunity to thrive. With Google’s philanthropy, products, and people, we hope to not only propel the work of these organisations forward, but also to explore ways to create a world where work is fair, satisfying, and offers a pathway to prosperity for everyone.