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CENTACARE WINS GRANT TO IMPROVE DIGITAL SKILLS IN GOSNELLS

Grant enables purchase of new laptops for students to reduce barriers to employment.

Gosnells, WA: Centacare Employment and Training has been awarded a Stronger Communities Grant, which will contribute to the costs of a \$30,000 project to give Gosnells students increased access to computers, internet and digital skills training.

The grant will be used to purchase and install a suite of laptops at the organisation's Gosnells training centre on Albany Highway.

According to Centacare's CEO, Lee-Anne Phillips, many of Centacare's students have very low digital literacy because they are highly disadvantaged and do not have access to the technology required to develop their skills.

"Computer skills are essential for most workplaces and this is often a barrier to employment for our students," Ms Phillips said.

"Through improved access to computers, Centacare students will be better prepared to achieve their employment goals and build a more sustainable economic future for themselves."

Centacare's popular Computer Skills for Work course piloted in Cannington in 2018 will be expanded to Gosnells in April 2019. The 10-week basic digital literacy course allows participants to develop their computer skills and gain confidence with new technology. During the course students can:

- Learn how to use computers and related technology
- Learn how to use programs like Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook and PowerPoint
- Develop a professional résumé
- Learn how to use websites like myGov and SEEK

Centacare student, Glen Cowley, finished the Computer Skills for Work course in December 2018 and says the program helped him a lot.

"I really enjoyed it," Mr Cowley said. "It's given me more confidence using a computer and I've learned how to do lots of things that I couldn't before, like downloading and using apps, using Google Drive and I loved the Microsoft stuff."

The Stronger Communities Grant was awarded by the Federal Member for Burt, Matt Keogh MP, and the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science in December 2018. Students are expected to have access to the new laptops from April 2019.

Matt Keogh will officially present the grant to Centacare at a morning tea event on January 30. Matt Keogh and his staff, Centacare staff and students, and the media will be in attendance.

About Centacare Employment and Training:

Centacare Employment and Training is a not for profit registered training organisation that has been delivering flexible training, education and employment programs to disadvantaged people in the Perth community for over 40 years. Centacare's mission is to 'transform lives through education, training and employment'. Learn more about Centacare and the programs we deliver on our website: www.centacarewa.com.au.

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