Question No: **564**

Program No. 1.2

Hansard Ref: Pages 71-72 (28/5/2014)

Topic: Advancing Australia as a digital economy

Senator Thorp asked:
I understand that the report Advancing Australia as a digital economy provided in appendix C a list of 34 separate digital productivity initiatives that had been already funded. Have any of these 34 projects been discontinued?

Answer:
None of the 34 digital productivity initiatives in Appendix C of the report *Advancing Australia as a Digital Economy: An update to the National Digital Economy Strategy* have been discontinued. Of the 34 initiatives, 25 are in progress and nine have completed their trial funding period.

Please see the attached table for a status update on all 34 digital productivity initiatives.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

SOCIAL SERVICES		
1. Department of Social Services	Broadband for Seniors	Broadband for Seniors provides seniors with free access to computers, the internet and computer training. It aims to assist senior Australians to understand the benefits of engaging in the digital economy. **Funding:** Up to 30 June 2014, the Australian Government has invested a total of $29 million in Broadband for Seniors. **Trial Period:** 2008 – 2017. The Australian Government committed to the continuation of the Broadband for Seniors initiative until 2017. **Participation:** Over 400,000 seniors have attended a kiosk (as at June 2014). **Status:** In progress.
2. Department of Social Services	Remote Hearing and Vision Services for Children	This program is using videoconferencing in community facilities and family homes to provide access to health and educational professionals. This increase the availability of disability services in rural and remote areas, where children with hearing and/or vision impairment may currently miss out on support or have to travel significant distances to receive services. **Funding:** $4.1 million **Time Period:** 2011/12–2013/14 **Participation:** 132 children with hearing and vision impairment have received services (as at June 2014) **Status:** Trial completed

COMMUNICATIONS		
3. Department of Communications	Digital Local Government – online customer support	13 local government councils were funded to deliver online general customer support services using the high-speed broadband. This involved the development and implementation of new workflow processes to receive and resolve customer enquiries online. These projects enable ratepayers to make an enquiry with a customer support officer in real-time using a videoconferencing platform.

		This platform can be accessed from the user's home or business, reducing the need for ratepayers to attend council in person to make an enquiry. **Funding:** Part of $17.1 million provided over four years **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2014/15 **Participation:** 92,107 participants accessed online customer support services with the majority being participants in online workshops (as at June 2014). **Status:** In progress
4. Department of Communications	Digital Local Government – Online Emergency Management System	One local government council was funded to implement an online Emergency Management System using high-speed broadband. The contract for the provision of this service concluded in June 2013. The system incorporates videoconferencing and advanced mapping capabilities. The Council used the system during the January 2013 Tasmanian bushfires. **Funding:** Part of $17.1 million provided over four years **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2014/15 **Status:** In progress
5. Department of Communications	Digital Local Government – Online Community Engagement	14 local government councils were funded to implement online community engagement and consultation services using high-speed broadband. Primarily, this involved the development and hosting of interactive community workshops that are delivered via web-based videoconferencing platforms and accessible from residents' homes and businesses. **Funding:** Part of $17.1 million provided over four years **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2014/15 **Participation:** 130,247 participants accessed online community engagement services with the majority being participants in online workshops and webinars (as at June 2014)

		Status: In progress
6. Department of Communications	Digital Local Government – Online building and development applications	Nine councils were funded to deliver online building and development services incorporating high-definition videoconferencing technology to improve their development assessment services and access to their planning services. These projects include the capability to track building applications online and the ability to interact with council staff and development professionals. **Funding:** Part of $17.1 million provided over four years **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2014/15 **Participation:** 15,518 participants accessed online building and development application services with the majority being online customer requests and workshops about the building and development application process (as at June 2014) **Status:** In progress.

HEALTH/AGED CARE		
7. Department of Communications	Townsville Diabetes Telehealth (Townsville Mackay Medicare Local)	In-home monitoring and video-conferencing with a nurse coordinator to assist patients with type 2 diabetes to monitor and better manage their condition. **Funding:** $3.070 million was provided under the Digital Regions Initiative and $0.690 million provided under the Digital Productivity Package. **Time Period:** 2011/12 – Nov 2014 **Participation:** 54 participants enrolled – 86 in the control group and 68 in the intervention group receiving in-home monitoring services (as at June 2014). **Status:** In progress
8. Department of Communications	NSW Chronic Disease Trial (NSW Health)	Provided in-home telehealth services to older Australians with chronic conditions, supported by care coordinators in their local health district. **Funding:** $3.060 million was provided under

		the Digital Regions Initiative **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2012/13 **Participation:** 103 participants registered with 89 completing the intervention services (as at December 2013). **Status:** Trial completed
9. Department of Communications	Kiama Mental Health Trial (Headspace Illawarra)	Delivers mental health assessment and treatment services for young people in Kiama via high-definition video-conferencing with health professionals in Wollongong. **Funding:** $0.94 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2013/14 **Participation:** 38 video conferencing sessions undertaken by 17 clients (as at June 2014) **Status:** Trial completed
10. Department of Health	Uniquest – Comprehensive Online Telehealth Assisted Care (ConTAC)	The project delivers telehealth assisted care to older Australians in residential aged care, transition care or living at home. **Funding:** $2.756 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – Sept 2014 **Participation:** 642 patients have received telehealth services as at May 2014 **Status:** In progress
11. Department of Health	Hunter New England Local Health District – Cancer Care Self-Management	The Hunter New England Local Health District will use high speed broadband to deliver self-management and care coordination telehealth services. Cancer patients will use in home monitoring equipment to assess and manage their cancer symptoms. **Funding:** $1.546million **Time Period:** 2011/12- 2013/14 **Participation:** 93 patients have received telehealth services as at May 2014 **Status:** Trial completed
12. Department of Health	CSIRO NBN enabled Tele Eye care project	This project uses the NBN Interim Satellite Service to provide tele-eye care services for older and Indigenous Australians in remote communities. It enables early detection of vision threatening eye disease by providing direct video-based access to expert-diagnostic services.

		Funding: $1.300 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2013/14 **Participation:** 939 indigenous patients have received tele-eye care services (as at May 2014) **Status:** Trial completed
13. Department of Health	Flinders University – Telehealth in the Home – Aged and Palliative care in SA	The project is based on a team approach that integrates the patient, carer, primary health care provider, aged care facility and specialist services. This will result in a reduced burden on specialised aged and palliative care facilities and hospitals, more timely intervention and reduction in presentation of acute episodes. **Funding:** $2.528 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – Sept 2014 **Participation:** 150 patients have received telehealth services (as at May 2014). **Status:** In progress.
14. Department of Health	Coordinated Aged Care Services to the Home	These five projects (Feros Care, Royal District Nursing Services, Leading Edge Age Services Australia, CSIRO and integrated living) involve in health telehealth services supported by nurse coordinators. They will deliver in-home-monitoring and allow patients to consult health professionals using videoconferencing. **Funding:** $12,135 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – Sept 14 **Participation:** 552 patients have received aged care services (as at May 2014). **Status:** In progress
15. Department of Veterans' Affairs	In Home Telemonitoring for Veterans	Through a GP led model of care, uses tele-monitoring to help veterans with specific chronic conditions to monitor their vital signs and manage their treatment. **Funding:** $8.1 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2014/2015 **Participation:** 102 veterans have received in home telemonitoring services (as at May 2014) **Status:** In progress.

EDUCATION		
16. ABC/ESA	ABC Education Portal (Splash Live)	Provides digital content and learning resources available to students, teachers and parents via the ABC Splash website. **Funding:** $19.94 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2013/14. **Participation:** 7.4 million page views; 2.03 million site visits (as at June 2014) **Status:** In progress
17. Department of Industry	Virtual English Tuition for Migrants Trial	Development of an integrated education platform combining 3D simulations of real-world environments with immersive high-definition panoramic video streaming. Tests a virtual classroom for the delivery of the Adult Migrant English Program to help new migrants develop English language skills. **Funding:** $5.1 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2013/14 **Participation:** 68 migrants have received tuition services (as at June 2014) **Status:** Trial completed
18. Department of Education	Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE – Diabetes Health and Wellness Program	Building an interactive multi-media learning platform and developing and trial professional development content for TAFE and University health care students on the self-care and management of diabetes. **Funding:** $3.05 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2014/2015 **Participation:** The project is on track with 46 participating students as at April 2014. **Status:** In progress
19. Department of Education	Bendigo Senior Secondary College - Victorian Virtual Learning Network	Providing senior secondary students in regional and metropolitan areas, as well as students with hearing issues, with access to courses otherwise unavailable to them through high quality, interactive digital content. Courses include commerce, mathematics and science. **Funding:** $0.74 million

		Time Period: 2011/12 – 2014/15 **Participation:** The project is on track with 187 participating students. In addition 165 students learning online via blended model with Victorian Virtual Leaning Network (VVLN) teacher and 971 students accessing VVLN courses to support classroom learning (as at April 2014). **Status:** In progress
20. Department of Education	Graduate School of Medicine – Telehealth Skills Training and Implementation	Offering telehealth skills training and virtual classes to graduate students training to become medical practitioners in regional, rural and remote Australia. **Funding:** $0.81 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2014/15 **Participation:** The project is on track with 137 participating students (as at April 2014). **Status:** In progress
21. Department of Education	University of New South Wales – Education 2020: Enabling learning in science, engineering and mathematics	Offering remote access from home and school locations to two Mars rover robots in a 140 sq. metre model of the Mars landscape to conduct experiments. Supplemented by video conferencing with experts in the fields of science, engineering and mathematics. **Funding:** $2.90 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2014/15 **Participation:** The project is on track with 790 participating students (as at April 2014). **Status:** In progress
22. Department of Education	University of New England – Asia ConneXions Utilising HD Videoconferencing	Providing high definition video conferencing between students participating in Asian languages and studies in 30 Australian schools and students at 30 schools in South Korea, China, India and Indonesia. **Funding:** $0.51 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2014/15 **Participation:** The project is on track with 28 Australian schools partnered (involving 915 students and 44 teachers) (as at April 2014). **Status:** In progress
23. Department of Education	Gordon Institute of TAFE	Using virtual classes and HD video

	– Remote delivery of school-based traineeships to regional and rural students in Victoria	conferencing to assist students in regional areas access gaming media training, including access from the home. **Funding:** $0.97 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2014/15 **Participation:** The project is on track with 129 participating students as at April 2014. **Status:** In progress
24. Department of Education	Monash University – NBN Virtual School of Emerging Science	Offering interactive classes supported by videoconferencing and collaborative tools in science subjects including nanotechnology and quantum physics. **Funding:** $1.88 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2014/15 **Participation:** The project is on track with 58 participating students as at April 2014. **Status:** In progress
25. Department of Education	University of NSW – Biomedical Education, Skills and Training (BEST) Network	Delivering biomedical content and virtual classes to a broad cross-section of student and professional groups including use of interactive online laboratory and clinic simulators. **Funding:** $3.0 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2014/15 **Participation:** The project is on track with approximately 569 users (as at April 2014). **Status:** In progress
26. Department of Education	Australia Youth Orchestra – Digital Connection Trial	Offering on-line music education and auditioning to pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary level students through: Remote auditions; remote open rehearsals; access to concerts online; streaming of regional residency workshops; and stored video performances for student/teacher reference. **Funding:** $1.57 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2014/15 **Participation:** 558 participating students receiving services (as at April 2014).

		Status: In progress
27. Department of Education	Sydney Opera House – From Bennelong Point to the Nation	Using virtual classes to lift student participation rates in the arts by providing real-time interactive classes in drama, dance and music to students living in remote and regional areas across Australia. **Funding:** $0.72 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2014/15 **Participation:** 352 participating students receiving services (as at April 2014). **Status:** In progress
28. Department of Education	Hunter Institute of TAFE – elinks Deployment Trial Enabling TAFE Training	Using a virtual college to deliver training for residential aged care services, child care services, tourism and hospitality, and small business enterprises. **Funding:** $2.44 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2014/15 **Participation:** The project is on track with 92 students and 24 educators currently participating in the course as at April 2014. **Status:** In progress
29. Department of Education	Association of Independent Schools NSW – Independent Schools and the NBN: Transforming the Education Digital Supply Chain	Enhancing students' learning by providing access to interactive virtual classes, home tutoring, teacher professional development resources and virtual tours. **Funding:** $3.04 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2014/15 **Participation:** The project is on track with approximately 84 schools and 1345 students participating (as at April 2014). **Status:** In progress
30. Department of Communications	eduONE – NBN enabled VET and University pathways element	The eduONE trial comprises the delivery of online vocational education and training and university pathway activities. In partnership with the University of New England it is delivering virtual classes and free interactive self-paced learning via NBN enabled interactive media learning space accessible through the eduONE web site. **Funding:** $3.500 million **Time Period:** 2010/11 – 2012/13 **Participation:** 645 students participated.

		Status: Trial completed
31. Department of Communications	QuickSmart Online (Numeracy) for Adult Job Seekers Element	The SiMMER National Research Centre of the University of new England is delivering QuickSmart Online (Numeracy) through the eduONE NBN-enabled learning platform. Using an online media-rich resource learners engage in interactive activities to learn and practise numeracy skills. **Funding:** $776,500 **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2012/13 **Participation:** 93 adult students participated in trial. **Status:** Trial completed
GOVERNMENT AND OTHER SERVICES		
32. Department of Human Services	Enhanced face to face Service Delivery Pilot	Tests the use of video-conferencing to deliver a selection of DHS services, such as financial information seminars, job capacity assessments and support for job seekers. **Funding:** $5.4 million **Time Period:** 2011/12 – 2014/15 **Participation:** 1408 as at June 2014. **Status:** In progress
33. Attorney General	Regional Legal Assistance Program	Supports delivery of regional legal assistance services via high speed broadband, improving access to these services and greater support to regional legal practitioners. **Funding:** $1.5 million **Time Period:** 2011/12-2014/15 **Participation:** 237 clients received legal assistance, 89 legal professionals received training and 101 non legal professionals received training (as at June 2014). **Status:** In progress.
34. CSIRO	Mobile telepresence in Museums	CSIRO developed and deployed a mobile telepresence system (including two semi-autonomous mobile robots) allowing students in regional Australia to participate in live immersive, interactive, guided tours of the National Museum of Australia from a computer in their school or local library. **Funding:** $2,443,000 from DBCDE

		(additional $1,049,000 from CSIRO) **Time Period:** July 2011 – June 2013 (Development commenced July 2011, with the working system launched in the NMA in March 2013). **Participation:** NMA conducted 38 sessions (tours of the Landmarks Gallery) involving 341 individual users. **Status:** Trial Completed