

National Partnership Agreement on the Digital Regions Initiative: Implementation Plan

PROJECT NAME:
CONNECTED - ANY STUDENT, ANY SCHOOL (CASAS)

Preliminaries

1. The Digital Regions Initiative will co-fund digital enablement applications to improve services in the key sectors of health, education and/or emergency services in regional, rural and remote communities across Australia in partnership with state, territory and local governments.
2. The National Partnership Agreement (the Agreement) provides the overarching administrative arrangements for the Digital Regions Initiative. The Agreement provides for the development of an Implementation Plan for each Digital Regions Initiative funded project, which contains details of the project, including but not limited to milestones, which may, when attained by the Tasmanian Department of Education (DoE), trigger payment from the Commonwealth.
3. This project will create a broadband-based virtual data centre that will host data from a range of schools, education institutions and authorities. It will enable schools and organisations to share expertise and teaching and training resources across all of Tasmania.

PART 1 – FORMALITIES

Parties

4. This Implementation Plan has been agreed between the Commonwealth of Australia ('the Commonwealth') represented by the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy and the relevant representative for the Department of Education (DoE).

Term of the Implementation Plan

5. This Implementation Plan will commence on the date both Parties agree in writing to the plan and will expire on 30 June 2013, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties.

6. Either Party may terminate this Implementation Plan by providing 40 business days notice in writing. Where this Implementation Plan is terminated, the Commonwealth's liability to make payments under this Implementation Plan is limited to payments associated with performance milestones achieved by the DoE by the date of effect of termination of this Implementation Plan.
7. The Parties to this Implementation Plan do not intend any of the provisions to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties' commitment to this Implementation Plan.

PART 2 – THE PROJECT

Purpose of the project

8. The project will contribute to the objectives and outcomes in the Agreement.
9. The CASAS project expands the traditional distance education or e-learning models by leveraging opportunities arising from the National Broadband Network (NBN) and Digital Education Revolution (DER). It will provide a seamless capability for any student to be connected easily in a safe and secure way to any school or student throughout Tasmania. It will enable Tasmanian schools to offer innovative personalised learning opportunities that embrace practical, hands-on and local, national and global e-learning programs and services.
10. The DoE agrees to deliver the project in accordance with the milestone schedule at Annexure A.

Project management

11. The project will be managed in accordance with the Project Management Guidelines Version 6.0 prepared by the Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet, as specified in Annexure B. Project teams will include members from the Partner organisations.

Project delay and changes

12. The Parties as represented by the Project Representatives (as at paragraphs 24 and 25) agree to take all reasonable steps to minimise changes or delay in progressing the project in accordance with the milestone schedule at Annexure A.
13. If a Party as represented by the Project Representatives becomes aware that completion of the project or project milestones will or may be delayed or significant changes occur, that Party must notify the other Party and both will work together in good faith to minimise the delay. Commonwealth funding is allocated to projects approved by the Commonwealth Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy. Minor adjustments within projects can be approved through agreement of the Project Representatives subject to any necessary policy and Budget approval processes.

Major Purchasing Activity

- 20. Assets contributing towards the project are listed at Annexure D. Details of asset purchases of \$10,000 or more will be provided with each written project report.
- 21. Proposed sub-contracts (if any) of \$10,000 or more to be entered into for the project are listed at Annexure D.

Promotion, Acknowledgment and Publicity

- 22. The Parties will reach prior agreement on the nature and content of any events, announcements, promotional material or publicity relating to activity under this Implementation Plan, and how the roles and contributions of the Parties will be acknowledged and recognised appropriately.

Project Representatives

- 23. The officers responsible for undertaking the management of the activities in accordance with the terms of this Implementation Plan are:

Commonwealth officer

- 24. Position: Assistant Secretary, Digital Initiatives Branch

Organisation: Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

Address: GPO Box 2154, Canberra ACT 2601

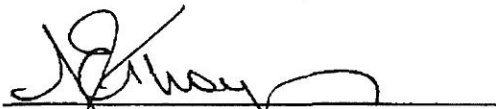
Participating Authority officer

- 25. Position: Director IT Services

Organisation: Department of Education Tasmania

Address: GPO Box 169, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001

*Signed for and on behalf of the State of Tasmania
by the Minister for Education and Skills, Lin Thorp
MLC*


[date] 19 AUG 2010

*Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth Of
Australia by the Minister for Broadband,
Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator
Stephen Conroy*


[date]

Annexure A
(Paragraphs 10,12, 15 & 16)

The Milestones

Connected Any Student, Any School (CASAS)

- This Annexure specifies each reporting period for the project and milestones (including indicators of completion / evidence for payment requirements) that DoE must achieve.

See table on following page. Note – the shaded row indicates a payment is due against the achievement of the milestone.

The key elements are:

- **Reporting period** - DoE is required to agree to a three monthly reporting cycle made up of alternating written reports (three months) and project consultations (next three months) in accordance with this milestone schedule.
- **Milestone** - is a significant event that indicates progress towards meeting the aims and objectives of the Implementation Plan.
- **Completion date** - is the date that each stage of the project has to be completed in order to meet the milestones of the project.
- **Evidence of completion** - is a measurement of the performance of each stage of the project during the reporting period.
- **Funding** - the total cost for each deliverable/milestone should add up to form the project budget.

The Connected Any Student, Any School project is based around three broad phases :

- **Phase 1** – Setup and provision the virtual data centre with data from Department of Education, Catholic Education Office, Tasmania and Association of Independent Schools Tasmania
- **Phase 2** – focus on new Flex school access including Post Year 10 delivery with at least 2 schools from Catholic Education Office Tasmania and Association of Independent Schools Tasmania
- **Phase 3** – broader access in the K-12 sectors with access to the wider Tasmanian community to enable anywhere, anytime learning.

Annexure A continued

Milestones

Reporting Period	Milestones	Completion date	Evidence of completion	Commonwealth Funding \$	Participating Authority and Partner Contributions \$	Total Cost \$
Establishment Payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation Plan signed Establish Project Management structures with partners. 		<p>Implementation Plan signed</p> <p>Production of Steering Committee membership.</p>	\$249,350		\$249,350
Report 1 On-site Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress since Establishment 		Verbal report to Commonwealth re project progress since last written report	\$0		
Report 2 Written Date Due: 15 Nov 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOU and Data Sharing Agreements with partners CEOT and AIST agreed. SIF data models. Develop VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) specifications and start procurement 	30 Nov 2010	Production of various reports and agreements as per milestone points and start work on VLE requirements	\$650,000	\$847,975	\$1,497,975
Report 3 On-site Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress since December 2010 quarter 		Verbal report to Commonwealth re project progress since last written report	\$0		
Report 4 Written Date Due: 15 May 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin Data Centre Stage 1 equipment installation. Procurement of VLE. Student, Staff and Parent SIF Agents in Trial. 	31 May 2011	Data Centre has equipment and SIF agents installed and working and VLE acquired	\$650,000	\$847,975	\$1,497,975

Implementation Plan Digital Regions Initiative

Reporting Period	Milestones	Completion date	Evidence of completion	Commonwealth Funding \$	Participating Authority and Partner Contributions \$	Total Cost \$
Report 5 On-site Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress since June 2011 quarter 		Verbal report to Commonwealth re project progress since last written report	\$0		
Report 6 Written Date Due: 15 Nov 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trial VLE in pilot schools (max 2 per jurisdiction). Training of teachers, staff and students in use of new VLE. 	30 Nov 2011	VLE training completed at trial schools. VLE in use at trial schools.	\$863,825	\$1,324,575	\$2,188,400
Report 7 On-site Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress since December 2011 quarter 		Verbal report to Commonwealth re project progress since last written report	\$0		
Report 8 Written Date Due: 15 May 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review trial of VLE in pilot schools and make any adjustments required for wider deployment. Schools acquire any IT infrastructure required to utilise VLE. 	31 May 2012	Production of VLE trial review document with any actions required. Schools have acquired the IT infrastructure	\$763,825	\$1,324,575	\$2,088,400
Report 9 On-site Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress since June 2012 quarter 		Verbal report to Commonwealth re project progress since last written report	\$0		
Report 10 Written Date Due: 15 Nov 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake training of teachers, staff and students in use of VLE at more schools. VLE deployed to more schools. 	30 Nov 2012	VLE training completed at schools. VLE in use at more schools.	\$1,500,000	\$997,500	\$2,497,500
Final Report Date Due:	Final report on the Connected Any Student, Any School project including the VLE and SIF systems in all jurisdictions	31 Jan 2013	Final Report produced.	\$257,800	\$997,500	\$1,255,300

Implementation Plan Digital Regions Initiative

Reporting Period	Milestones	Completion date	Evidence of completion	C'wealth Funding \$	Participating Authority and Partner Contributions \$	Total Cost \$
26 Feb 2013				\$4,934,800	\$6,340,100	\$11,274,900
			Total Commonwealth Funding			

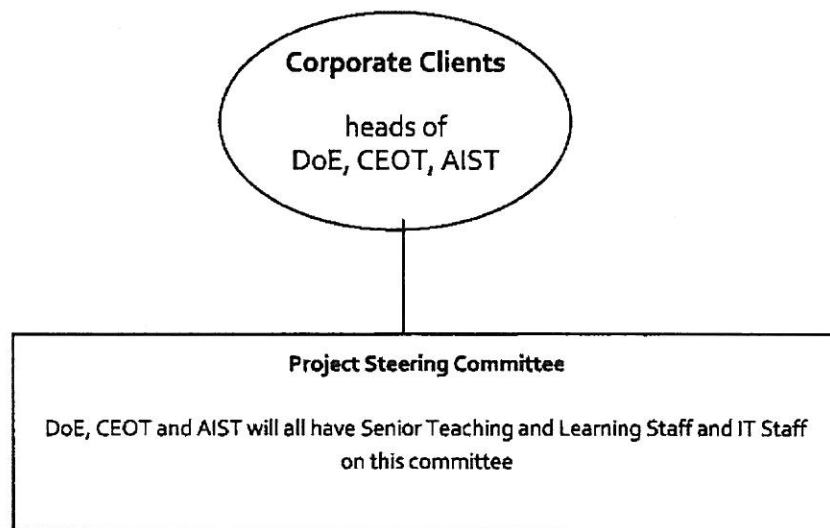
Management Structure

Connected - Any student, Any school

Department of Education Tasmania is responsible for providing public education, vocational education and training, adult and community education, and library and archive services throughout Tasmania.

Department of Education Tasmania will be responsible for managing the overall project.

Project partners are Tasmanian Catholic Education Office and the Association of Independent Schools Tasmania.



Budget Expenditure

Connected - Any student, Any school

	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013
Digital Regions Initiative funding (excl GST)	\$1,549,350.00	\$1,627,650.00	\$1,757,800.00
Lead Applicant	Department of Education Tasmania Contribution		
Cash & Other Contributions	\$899,150.00	\$1,779,650.00	\$1,385,000.00
Project Partner	Catholic Education Office Tasmania		
Cash & Other Contributions	\$748,300.00	\$789,500.00	\$514,000.00
Project Partner	Association of Independent Schools Tasmania		
Cash & Other Contributions	\$48,500.00	\$80,000.00	\$96,000.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$1,695,950.00	\$2,649,150.00	\$1,995,000.00
OVERALL Digital Regions Initiative Funding	\$4,934,800.00		
OVERALL Other Contributions (Lead Applicant)	\$1,688,300.00		
OVERALL Other Contributions (Others)	\$813,000.00		
OVERALL Cash Contributions (Lead Applicant)	\$2,375,500.00		
OVERALL Cash Contributions (Others)	\$1,463,300.00		
OVERALL PROJECT VALUE	\$11,274,900.00		

Annexure D

(Sub paragraph 15.e, Paragraphs 18 & 19)

Major Purchasing Activity***Connected - Any student, Any school***

The following major purchasing activity in regard to expenditure of \$10,000 or more provides details of what Department of Education Tasmania will purchase, install or enhance in order to meet the aims and objectives of the project. Further detail regarding the overall implementation of the project is provided in Annexure A.

Major Purchase Items

	Description
Year (2009-2010)	NIL
Year (2010-2011)	
Capital Equipment	Servers, SAN, networking equipment, etc
DoE IDM Application Access and Authorisation enhancements	
Capital Equipment	Servers, SAN, networking equipment, etc
IT Infrastructure Upgrades	PCs, Laptops, Web Cams / Video Conference, Printers, etc at schools
DoE IDM Application Access and Authorisation enhancements	
Video Conferencing Equipment	
Virtual Learning Environment Applications	LMS, Digital Portfolio, etc
Misc IT Equipment	
Year (2011-2012)	
Capital Equipment	Servers, SAN, networking equipment, etc

IT Infrastructure Upgrades	PCs, Laptops, Web Cams / Video Conference, Printers, etc at schools
DoE IDM Application Access and Authorisation enhancements	
Video Conferencing Equipment	
Virtual Learning Environment Applications	LMS, Digital Portfolio, etc
Misc IT Equipment	
Year (2012-2013)	
Capital Equipment	Servers, SAN, networking equipment, etc
IT Infrastructure Upgrades	PCs, Laptops, Web Cams / Video Conference, Printers, etc at schools
DoE IDM Application Access and Authorisation enhancements	
Video Conferencing Equipment	
Virtual Learning Environment Applications	LMS, Digital Portfolio, etc
Misc IT Equipment	

Annexure E
(Sub-paragraphs 15.f & 16.c)

Performance Indicators and Baseline Data Measures
Connected Any Student, Any School (CASAS)

Agreed performance indicators in accordance with the Digital Initiatives Guidelines are:

Performance Indicator	Measure
<p>Performance Indicator 1</p> <p>The extent to which regional, rural and remote communities are positively impacted by Digital Regions Initiative</p>	<p>(PI 1.4) Description of benefits and impacts in relation to original proposal</p>
<p>Performance Indicator 2</p> <p>Improvements in the delivery of health, education and/or emergency services enabled by digital technologies supported by Digital Regions Initiative projects</p>	<p>(PI 2.1) Description of service delivery benefits by sector at the project end.</p> <p>(PI 2.2) Growth of new or improved services/applications as presented in project progress reports and/or at the project end as measured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of schools in each jurisdiction that use the e-learning and distant education services provided by the project ▪ Increased number of students able to assess e-learning and distance education services via the toolsets delivered <p>(PI 2.3) Impact of new or improved applications and service delivery outcomes presented in project progress reports and/or at the project end as measured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of 21st century toolsets being used

<p>Performance Indicator 3</p> <p>Extent to which Australian Government investment is leveraged by Digital Regions Initiative projects</p>	<p>(PI 3.5) Description of additional benefits achieved by project through opportunities created by the NBN as measured by the interaction of users using broadband and mobile services at project end.</p>
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Baseline data measure	Measurement as at project commencement
<p>(PI 1.1) Physical location of towns/postcodes.</p> <p>(PI 2.2) Growth of new or improved services/applications measured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number and description of 21st century toolsets used ▪ School and student access to data centre and toolsets ▪ Number of end-users. <p>(PI 2.3) Description/impact of new or improved applications and service delivery outcomes:</p> <p>Provided in case studies at the project end.</p>	<p>Baseline for regions is zero</p>