



### Digital Strategy - Creating Our Digital Future

The Digital Strategy is New Zealand's plan to create a digital future for all New Zealanders by maximising the opportunities that Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) provide. New Zealand will be a world leader in using information and technology to realise its economic, social, environmental, and cultural goals, to the benefit of its people.

The Digital Strategy is made up of three key enablers:

**Content** - Information made available through digital networks. "Information" encompasses heritage collections, Māori language resources, research databases, and traditional and contemporary cultural products.

**Confidence** - Developing the necessary skills at all ages, in all parts of society, to use and participate in ICT effectively. Confidence encompasses addressing the challenges that may slow ICT uptake such as spam and electronic crime.

**Connection** - Affordable access to viable ICT infrastructure such as telecommunications networks, computers, mobile phones and other devices. Utilising ICT to create virtual environments in which communities can connect, especially communities faced with geographic challenges.

**Content** provides the reason, **confidence** provides the skills and trust, and being **connected** provides the means.

### Community Partnership Fund - Unlocking the Potential of Communities

ICT can be used to bring communities closer together, to build the capacity of individuals and groups, extend existing services to isolated communities, or to those excluded from participating fully, and increase participation in the democratic process.

Through the Community Partnership Fund, the government has provided \$17.4 million seed funding to partly fund 119 community driven initiatives that will improve people's capability and skills to use ICT, develop digital content and connect communities.

Partnerships between community, local government, businesses, and government have brought further contributions of over \$30 million to complete the projects.

The Community Partnership Fund supports projects that focus on:

- building ICT skills and capability in regions and communities;
- mapping communities' ICT assets and identifying priority gaps;
- strengthening community projects through the use of ICT;
- connecting communities of interest online;
- addressing issues of confidence, such as safety and security, in using ICT; and
- smart ways to digitise and link content and use technology applications in our communities around New Zealand.

### Motatau Marae Trustees – Cyber Whare

*Hei korowai mo ngā iwi  
puta noa i te ao – Building  
people's capability to  
enable a connection to the  
world*

Located in Northland, the isolated community of Motatau face many challenges in accessing reliable, high-speed Information Communication Technology (ICT). To help overcome these barriers, the Motatau Marae Trustees consulted with their community and revealed a strong desire to establish a Community House with ICT capability. To meet this need, the Trustees have received funding from the Community Partnership Fund to create a Cyber Whare in the local community.

Based on the concept of a cyber-café, the Cyber Whare provides tuition to local people to help them become trainers and facilitators in ICT. The programme aims to produce a community-driven environment that will help to cultivate the confidence to use ICT as a tool to gather information, create and foster new skills and to take Motatau's knowledge to the world.

Online learning and improving individual and communal skills in the community is a major focus for the Cyber Whare. Having access to up-to-date ICT training and resources helps to develop and promote local enterprises and businesses. Skills training focuses specifically on Microsoft's Office Suite, including Power Point and Publisher. Other subjects that are taught include website design, general business training, career orientation, and mastering the MYOB software.

"The Cyber Whare has provided a venue for intergenerational learning, with children, parents and grandparents working together," said Pita Tipene, Chair of the Motatau Marae Trustees.

"It has been a wonderful sight to see kaumātua and kuia breakdown the "fear factor" about using computers. The confidence they have gained by using ICT is the beginning of providing them with tools to communicate with people overseas, like their children and grandchildren."

The programme receives strong leadership through a joint venture between the Motatau School Board of Trustees and Principal and the Motatau Marae Trustees, who have the majority of members on a management committee. The School Board and Principal work together to ensure that the Cyber Whare is well led in terms of governance & maintenance.

"We have seen benefits well beyond our expectations. Our tamariki are using the Internet to assist with school projects, and our rangatahi are utilising the equipment to form a youth club to run activities not provided for in our rural communities, such as holiday programmes, fundraising for the marae, and wānanga for the youth," said Pita.

Motatau's facility is one of a network of Cyber Whare throughout Northland. A group of four foundation Cyber Whare work together, share their expertise and resources, and support each other to deliver quality ICT services and training to their specific communities. Access to this team helps to provide IT development, technical support, maintenance, and training resources. The Cyber Whare will go a long way towards overcoming the digital divide in the small community of Motatau.

