

From: comments@digitalstrategy.govt.nz
Sent: Friday, 25 April 2008 11:18 p.m.
To: Submission@DigitalStrategy.govt.nz
Subject: Submission to the Digital Strategy 2.0

id_firstname: Catherine
id_lastname: Arrow
id_organisation: Various - including PRINZ, AUT
id_email: cathyarrow@extra.co.nz
id_street: 29 Creamer Ave
id_city: Belmont
id_connection1: The international connection should be given a higher priority. 'One road out' is not sufficient and this should be improved as swiftly as possible.
id_connection2: The issue of affordability must be considered. If you really want to bridge the many forms of digital divide, the affordability - or open access - should be considered more carefully.
id_connection3: Reasonably well, but there is room for improvement
id_connection4: The main one as above - international links - as soon as possible. I am sure it can be done before 2012!!
id_confidence1: I think the goal is a good one - but the 'plan' as detailed isn't sufficiently robust to achieve it.
id_confidence2: You have to shift some focus away from improving 'ICT' onto improving (or establishing) base digital literacy in the whole population. Stop separating ICT from the rest of us - it is and will be an intrinsic part of all our lives and as essential as the ability to read text or add up a column of figures. Shift your head space on this or you will find you are doomed to fail!
id_confidence3: All reasonably - but you have to teach the teachers and train the trainers in order to do the things you are setting out to do. Draw on the experience of those here who understand the competencies required to build digital literacy (and remember it is NOT about learning specific programmes or teaching kids how to use powerpoint) to help you build the framework you need to *make it ordinary* for people - that's been my aim for the last seven years anyway!
id_confidence4: Teach the teachers asap, teach the officials - government central and local - teach the business leaders and key influencers. Knit technical knowledge with human communication skills and you'll be on to a winner.
id_content1: Goal is good and certainly ambitious
id_content2: Look at how you are going to get all kiwi communities to work together; look at how you are going to deal with new communities that emerge from their digital interactions and the contributions they will make.
id_content3: It is ok but could go deeper- but a starting point nonetheless.
id_content4: Stop thinking about 'business' and 'digital business'. All businesses will need to be capable of digital interaction. But then, this does make the whole task a lot bigger!
id_collaboration1: Vital
id_collaboration2: You have to really involve the politicians at all levels - central and local. I have been training people in NZ in digital literacy for the last three years - many of my delegates have been from central government departments - and although they can see the benefit they have an almost impossible time convincing their ministers/chief officers to engage in virtual environments and platforms. Unless collaboration and integrated use is bravely embraced at the top of the tree, it won't get down to feed the roots.,I have been attempting to do this for the same period of time, both in workplaces, tertiary institutions and other community areas by sharing knowledge, writing widely on the subject and promoting NZ's contributions in this area to the global communities I participate in. I shall continue to do this in the future.
id_collaboration3: Each has a unique contribution to make - the challenge is identifying what that contribution will be for each community. The other challenge is to make sure you are identifying your communities correctly - community in 2008 is a very different entity to community in 2000 - 2003 and forms along very different lines.,My whole work environment is based around digital interaction with people, either utilising digital space for commercial relationships or educational ones. My business model has been operating on this basis since 1995.
id_collaboration4: Identify communities properly, identify key contributions and collaborative areas, identify how these can be applied and then implemented so that actions are taken and embedded prior to any future summits/talk-fests.,Learn. Realise things have changed and become part of the evolution. Openess to dialogue and different ways of doing things - including government!

id_potential1: Personally, I have been trying to contribute to this for the last three years, taking digital literacy and other training out into my professional community as well as to local government and central government communicators. I have also been attempting to roll this out to businesses and not-for-profits as I believe it is vital for their development to be equipped with these knowledge sets. I shall continue to do this in the future.

id_comments: Yes. You have to work on a real digital literacy programme. You have to move away from 'teaching Microsoft programmes' to helping people understand how they communicate and interact in the digital space. You have to think sustainability via the digital 'space' rather than the digital 'device' as we become more space orientated and less device specific. And you really have to get that cabling sorted out.