



## Submission on Digital Strategy 2.0

This submission is presented by the **Computer Access New Zealand (CANZ) Trust**, a not-for-profit community trust established with support from the Ministry of Education to promote computer refurbishment and recycling, especially for schools and low-income communities through programmes such as Computers in Homes managed by the 2020 Communications Trust.

### Computer Access NZ Trust

The CANZ Trust was established in 1999, with financial support from the Ministry of Education, to help narrow the digital divide in our society. CANZ works with accredited computer refurbishers who share a code of practice, agreed standards and the CANZ quality brand to make available affordable computers to schools and low income communities. Refurbishers sell used equipment donated by commercial and government organisations. This equipment, all quality 'name' brands, is refurbished, upgraded as necessary and sold with a trusted warranty and after-sales service. And when they reach the end of their useful life, CANZ refurbishers take them back for environmental-friendly recycling.

### eDay (e-waste Day)

The CANZ Trust partnered with Dell in 2006 to run a pilot electronic waste day (eDay) in Wellington to divert household e-waste from landfills; a total of 53 tonnes of equipment was collected. This was so successful that CANZ organized a national eDay in September 2007 for 12 centres; 415 tonnes were collected. The event achieved high media coverage and was well received by the community with 7000 cars dropping off equipment. A further eDay is being planned for October 2008. Up to 30 centres are expected to participate with an expected 1000 tonnes of e-waste being collected.

### 2005 Digital Strategy

The 2005 Digital Strategy acknowledged the contribution of the CANZ programme and assigned a lead role to the Trust (albeit without any budget allocation) to continue to promote the re-use of computers wherever possible. The Ministry of Education has continued to support the work of the Trust in schools with an annual funding grant, but the issue is now much larger than the school sector.

### Digital Strategy 2.0

We are disappointed that no explicit reference has been made to **computer recycling and e-waste** in the Digital Strategy 2.0. In an increasingly digital environment, there is no escaping e-waste, and with the increasing speed of change and digital innovation, the e-waste problem is only going to increase. While efforts are being made by government and industry groups to develop product stewardship schemes, these could take some time to become fully operational and there is always the historic waste to deal with, estimated in a July 2006 report prepared by the CANZ Trust at around 10 million cathode ray tube devices (televisions and computer monitors) alone.

We recognize that part of new goal suggested for the "Confidence" strategy is about "enhancing sustainability" (p.20) but we think this needs to be backed up with strategies, programmes and budgets.

### Our Proposal



# COMPUTER ACCESS NZ TRUST

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## Computer recycling and e-waste initiatives should receive explicit support in the Digital Strategy 2.0

### Government support is needed for:

- Baseline funding for CANZ \$0.1M per annum
- Research and Development support for NZ e-waste solutions \$0.5M
- Establishing recycling guidelines and provider accreditation mechanism (including training) \$0.25M