

# Inverell Shire Council Public Library

## Internet Policy

### Aims and Objectives of the Policy

The policy has a number of aims and objectives:

- Promote the Internet as a valuable and important research tool for information
- Promote freedom of information
- Ensure equal access to the Internet for members of the Inverell Shire Council Library
- Ensure that the user understands his/her responsibilities when using electronic resources
- Safeguard the Libraries resources

### User Responsibility

#### Users under 18 years of age

Young people are welcome to access the Internet in the Library, with their parents permission. Any material accessed by children when using the Internet is the sole responsibility of parents and guardians. It is suggested that parent's and guardian's read the *Inverell Library's Internet Guide for Parents*.

### Ethical Use of the Internet

Provision of access to the Internet is that it is used in an ethical manner. Any unethical behaviour such as using the workstation to gain unauthorised access to any network or computer system, undertaking any activities which are offensive or slanderous, performing illegal or criminal activities is unacceptable.

*The Library recognises an individual's right to freedom of access to information. However, users must be sensitive to other users and staff when accessing material that is potentially controversial or offensive. Access to material deemed inappropriate for a Public Library environment may be limited.*

### Offensive and/or erroneous Material

The Internet allows the user to access a wide range of information. The user must be aware that the Internet is an uncensored and unregulated resource tool, and as such, the type of material accessed is the sole responsibility of the user. The Library accepts no responsibility for the accuracy and validity of information accessed via the Internet by the user.

## **Access Time**

Due to the demand for access to the Internet, members are limited to the time period they can spend using the Library's facilities. Bookings are essential, with a maximum of one hour of time booked on any one day. Booking time includes time needed for printing and downloading.

## **Consideration of Staff and Library Equipment**

The Internet is a resource tool that provides access to an unmeasurable number of sites. As a result it can not be expected that Library Staff are experts in the use of every site accessed by users. Individual problems experienced by the users when accessing particular sites is the responsibility of the user. The Library will not tolerate any form of abuse directed at either the staff or the computers as a result of any problems.

## **Library Responsibilities**

To ensure that a copy of the Libraries policies are available at the Inverell Shire Public Library and the Ashford Branch Library.

Provide users with assistance and recognising that staff are not experts with regards to particular user problems and that the user is responsible for their own search.

Respect user privacy and maintain user confidentiality.

If requested by relevant authorities under state or federal law provide records for criminal or investigatory purposes.

## **Provision of Links**

The Inverell Shire Council Public Library provides a selection of links to various internet sites from its home page. These links are not monitored. As a result any material that is accessed or downloaded by the user that is offensive or damaging eg. viruses is not the responsibility of the Library.

**PLEASE NOTE – INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE POLICY MAY HAVE THEIR SESSION TERMINATED OR BE DENIED FUTURE ACCESS TO THE SERVICE.**

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