

Digital Inclusion Whanganui

Open Discussion - "What Comes Next?"



Introduction

The completion of the Needs Analysis and the Strategic Business and Funding Plan marks a major milestone in the journey of Digital Inclusion Whanganui (DIW). We've gathered data, listened to communities, identified priorities, and crafted a vision.

"But the most important part now begins deciding how we act together."

But the most important part now begins deciding how we act together. This open discussion invites all present—residents, supporters, professionals, and potential collaborators—to help shape our next steps.

We welcome your ideas, experiences, and questions. This is our chance to create a truly community-led movement

that responds directly to the needs of Whanganui's people. Your voice matters in helping us determine the shape of our mahi from here.

Purpose of this Session

This session is a collaborative exploration to shape the immediate future (next 6–9 months) for Digital Inclusion Whanganui. With the foundational work now in place, we stand at a critical juncture to:

- Consider governance and steering structures
- Prioritise pilot projects
- Shape the co-design process
- Agree on tangible steps we can take together

Agenda

- Recap of key insights from the Needs Analysis and Strategic Business Plan
 - Discussion on possible governance/steering group models
 - Identification of priority pilot projects
 - Dialogue on co-design and community collaboration
 - Agreement on immediate actions and shared responsibilities
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Governance & Steering Structures: Options for Discussion

1. **Minimalist Approach** (Short-term)
Informal network led by the DIW convenor
 -  Fast, flexible
 -  Fragile, limited capacity
 2. **Community Advisory and Steering Group**
Representatives from health, education, iwi, business, and community sectors
 -  Shared responsibility, broader support
 -  Needs clear structure and commitment
 3. **Charitable Trust** (Long-term)
Standalone legal entity for funding and governance
 -  Access to grants, formal accountability
 -  High setup and administrative load
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Prioritising Pilot Projects

- Affordable Devices & Internet (e.g., \$5 lease model)
 - Mobile Tech Hubs (rural outreach)
 - Digital Drop-in Clinics (community support spaces)
 - Online Health Literacy (navigation, portals, safety)
 - Youth-Led Creativity Labs (media, storytelling, podcasting)
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Co-Designing Our Mahi: Collaboration Essentials

- Be culturally grounded
 - Build on local trust and partnerships
 - Embrace learner-led and adaptive approaches
 - Clarify roles and shared outcomes
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Next Steps (6–9 Months)

- Choose governance pathway (by Q4 2025)
- Launch funding applications
- Select and begin implementing pilot projects (Q3)

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- Formalise partnerships (MOUs etc.)

Discussion Prompts

- Which governance model fits our values and capacity?
- Which projects should we begin first—and why?
- Where does your organisation see itself contributing?
- What actions can we take this month?

Closing Remarks

Today's conversation is just the beginning. Digital Inclusion Whanganui thrives on community wisdom, practical action, and mutual support. Together, we can ensure every resident of Whanganui has the digital tools, skills, and confidence to thrive.

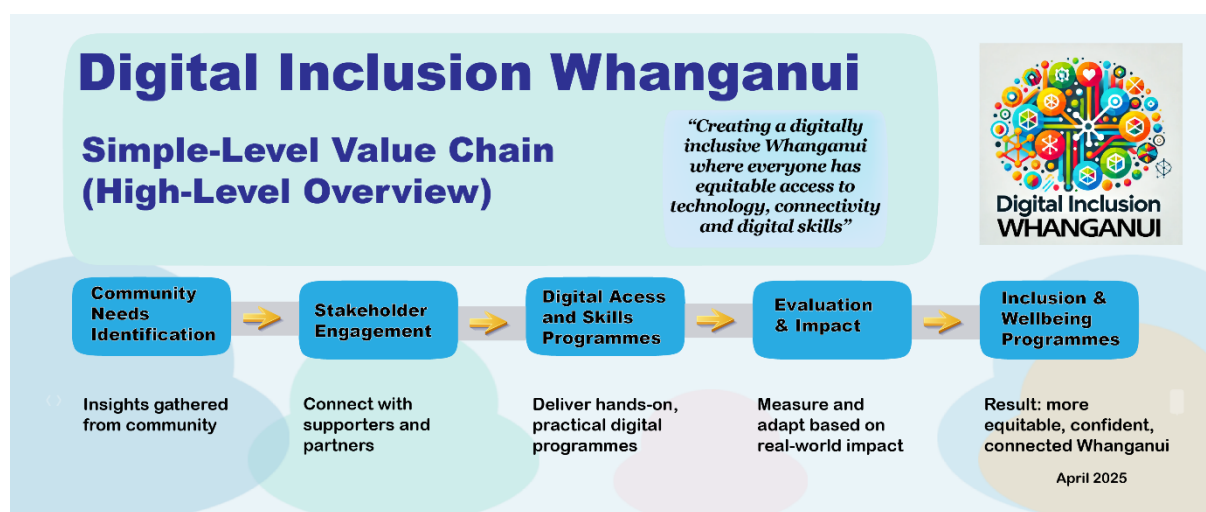
Thank you for joining this critical conversation!

Whanganui has the community spirit, creative energy, and strategic potential to lead Aotearoa in this space. But that will only happen if enough people step forward.

Let's create something extraordinary together.



For full access to the report, the business plan, the presentation slides or to get involved scan the QR code, or visit: <https://crystaladventures.co.nz/digital-inclusion-whanganui/>



A Possible Action Plan and Pilots table

What	Who	When
Establish a Community Advisory and Steering Group	DIW convenor with support from WDC, Library, WRHN, Tech Network	Q2-Q4 2025
Pursue Funding for Establishment of DIW	DIW convenor with guidance from funders (WDC, philanthropy, MBE)	Q2-Q4 2025
Create an Operations and Action Plan for DIW	DIW convenor with Community Advisory Group	Draft by Q4 2025; update annually
Continuity and Expansion of Current Initiatives	DIAA, library and community partners, supported by DIW	Ongoing; review Q4 2025
Pilot Initiatives for Priority Groups	DIW convenor with local training and social service partners	Design in Q3-Q4 2025; pilot Q1 2026
Community Organisations as Everyday Digital Champions	DIW convenor with local community groups	Ongoing from Q3 2025; explore funding by Q1 2026
Digital Skills Training Pathways	Whanganui District Library, Learning Centre, UCOL, Te Ora Hou	Build partnerships in 2025; scale-up 2026-2027
Online Health Literacy	Whanganui DHB, GP clinics, libraries, pharmacies; supported by DIW	Pilot a programme in 2026
Community-Driven Opportunities (Nelson AI model)	DIW convenor; outreach to Nelson AI Sandbox	Explore Q4 2025; pilot 2026 (subject to resourcing)