



## **MEDIA RELEASE & MEDIA CALL OPPORTUNITY**

**30 March 2026**

### **Helping older Tasmanians stay connected – generous donation to assist digital connection**

A collaborative partnership that will assist older Tasmanians to connect with the online world has been created, with Hazell Bros donating Samsung Tablets to COTA Tasmania's *Generations Connect: Tech Together* program.

In a collaboration between COTA Tasmania, Work Ventures Tech4Kids TAS project and Hazell Bros, the partnership was borne out of a shared commitment to improving digital access to those most in need.

James Ryan, from Work Ventures Tech4Kids, commented "This collaboration came together naturally. Hazell Bros approached us wanting to donate end-of-life devices to Tech4Kids TAS, and when we heard about COTA Tasmania's digital inclusion program, the connection was clear. With Tasmania still the most digitally excluded state in the country, partnerships like this are essential to ensure more people aren't left behind in an increasingly digital world."

The November 2025 Australian Digital Inclusion Index confirmed Tasmania as the lowest-ranked state overall, performing worst in the country on affordability and digital ability, and near-lowest on access.

COTA Tasmania says the donation will make a significant difference for many of the people involved in their *Generations Connect: Tech Together* program, particularly those who rely on technology to stay connected with family, friends, and essential services.

"Affordability pressures and digital ability gaps mean we need targeted, age-friendly digital inclusion strategies and partnerships to enhance our offerings" COTA CEO Brigid Wilkinson said.

Hazell Bros have donated 25 Samsung Tablet devices to be distributed to older residents in the program who are currently without access to suitable technology, and it is hoped the donation will open a new world of experiences and access.

"For over 80 years, Hazell Bros has operated with a focus on people - both the teams within our business and the local communities in which we work. Hazell Bros remains a family company and the family values we promote include supporting young people looking to learn, and appreciating the hard work and dedication contributed by retirees" said Hazell Bros Chief Information Officer, Patrick Moore

“Technology has the potential to improve daily life by making resources and learning more accessible, communication easier and extend social participation. Work Ventures Tech4Kids program and COTA present us with an opportunity to demonstrate our company's family values, providing technology to help bridge the digital divide and making the benefits of technology more accessible”

Digital exclusion is an increasing issue for older Tasmanians and can lead to social exclusion, as well as increased vulnerability to scams and financial abuse.

“The partnership that has commenced and the impact these devices will have for residents who may otherwise miss out on the benefits of being connected is vitally important. We look forward to further opportunities to collaborate with Hazell Bros and Work Ventures Tech4Kids TAS project, as part of our intergenerational program”, said COTA Tasmania CEO Brigid Wilkinson.

The media opportunity will take place at:

**Date:** Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026

**Time:** 11:00am

**Location:** Barrington Lodge  
120 Swanston Street, New Town

**Available on the day to speak** – alongside representatives of the three organisations, there will be participants of Tech Together program to speak to their experiences.

## **ENDS**

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Further information about Generations Connect: Tech Together program [here](#)