



# LIBRARY PUBLIC ACCESS INTERNET POLICY

## 1. POLICY PURPOSE

McKinlay Shire Council has a responsibility to provide internet and computer access to meet the recreational, cultural, informational and learning needs of the McKinlay Shire community and those that visit the shire.

Providing access to these services supports the library's commitment to maintaining a high quality of service using new forms of information technology and also meets State Library's requirement to provide free access to the internet.

## 2. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- To ensure fair and equitable access to the internet and wireless services;
- To promote freedom of information;
- To promote lifelong learning and digital literacy;
- To establish guidelines for acceptable use of the public internet and wireless services at McKinlay Shire Library branches;
- To clearly indicate the responsibility of customers using the internet and wireless including parental responsibility for supervising minors on line; to ensure the integrity and safety of McKinlay Shire Council information technology network.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

To assist in interpretation, the following shall apply:

**Council** shall mean the Mayor and Councillors of McKinlay Shire Council

**Library** shall mean a Library belonging to, or under the control and management of, McKinlay Shire Council and include all library locations

**Member** shall mean any user who has fulfilled the requirements for membership of the Library and has a current membership card

**Offensive material** may include, but is not limited to, images or text containing nudity, obscenity, graphic violence or any material that may make other library users uncomfortable

**User** shall mean any person, whether or not a member, who visits a Library for the purpose of using Library resources and/or facilities

## 4. POLICY CONTENT

### Public computer and wireless access

McKinlay Shire Council Library Service internet and wireless service is available only during opening hours. Connection to the wireless service is free of charge. Library PC's and Library internet are also available free of charge. Printing is available via Library PC's however charges do apply. Users can either be current members or visitors to McKinlay Shire Council Library Service.

McKinlay Shire Council does not take responsibility for any technical problems in accessing sites and cannot guarantee continuous internet or wireless access during time of usage. Temporary wireless interruptions may occur as normal events in the provision of the wireless services.

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The current service provided does not censor access to material on the internet. The Library regards current filtering software as inaccurate and unreliable. These software packages do not take into account the wide range of clients who use the Internet in a public Library. The use of such software may lead to both adults and children missing out on vital information. Literature on this issue is available from the State Library of Queensland's website (<http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/>)

The Library seeks to address the concerns of parents and the community by placing internet computers in full public view. The Library cannot guarantee the quality of information on the Internet. It is the responsibility of the patron to determine the validity, quality and relevancy of the information accessed. The Library cannot ensure access to sites on the internet, waiting times may be long and connections to all sites cannot be guaranteed.

The following services may be accessed from the Library internet service:

- World Wide Web pages;
- Library catalogues;
- Usenet news
- Electronic journals and texts;
- Discussion lists;
- Internet relay chat;
- Email (where patrons know the internet address of their account, or through free services such as "Hotmail"). Library staff may be able to provide information on how to access email accounts. Please ask staff for assistance.

McKinlay Shire Libraries will not be held responsible for inadvertent exposure by minors or adults to potentially offensive material accessed by internet users on Library equipment. The Library is not and will not be held responsible for what a minor or adult may locate on the Internet. As with other library materials, restriction of a minor's access to information on the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

### **Public Conduct**

Any equipment malfunction should be reported to Library staff immediately. Patrons should not attempt to "repair" hardware or software problems. Patrons may not, under any circumstances, use their own personal software on Library computers or attach equipment to the Library's hardware. Unacceptable conduct may lead to the suspension of Library privileges. Unacceptable behaviour includes:-

- Destruction of or damage to Council equipment or software;
- Licence infringement;
- Attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords or data belonging to others;
- Display of offensive or inappropriate material;
- Unauthorised monitoring of electrical communications; and,
- Intentional unauthorised infringement of copyright.

If a decision is made to suspend Library internet privileges, notice will be given in writing to the patron or their parent/guardian/carer informing of the suspension. Library staff members reserve the right to eject patrons engaged in unacceptable conduct.

### **Copyright**

Much of the material, including software, available is protected by copyright. Patrons are personally responsible for complying with all applicable laws governing copyright materials. A copyright owner

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is entitled to take legal action against a patron who infringes his or her copyright. Unless otherwise permitted by the Copyright Act 1968, unauthorised copying of a work in which copyright subsists (including digital copying) may infringe the copyright in that work. The Copyright Act and associated Regulations are available online at <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Home>

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