



Westnet is now a DCITA registered HiBIS provider.

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The Australian Government, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA) has introduced the HiBIS program to assist with high demand for Broadband internet throughout Australia. HiBIS is a \$107.8 million Australian government initiative.

Westnet Internet Services has registered as a HiBIS qualified ISP to provide Broadband ADSL services under the scheme. This initiative aims to provide people in regional, rural and remote Australia with access to higher bandwidth Internet services at prices similar to that of metropolitan Australia.

As a HiBIS registered Internet Service Provider, Westnet has released HiBIS Broadband ADSL offers that include a free connection and free ADSL modem on a 12 months contract.

"The HiBIS initiative is a big step towards bringing broadband services to regional communities around Australia. Generally these communities have been at a disadvantage due to their size and remoteness", says Mr. Peter Brown, Westnet's Managing Director.

"Most of new areas are being enabled based on the amount of interest registered for a particular exchange" says Mr Brown, "HiBIS program has effectively lowered the threshold of interest registrations required on an exchange for the upgrade to take place".

A sizable proportion of Westnet's members are located in regional Australia with many not yet having access to ADSL Broadband. Westnet's commitment to supporting the HiBIS program ensures that existing members and new members alike will be able to take advantage of the great offers made possible by this program.

"Over the past 24 months the rate of DSL take-up has been incredible. Our Broadband member base has tripled in the past 12 months alone", says Mr Brown. "I really think that the HiBIS offers will further fuel that take up among regional residents that meet HiBIS eligibility criteria".

For more information on Westnet HiBIS Broadband offers please visit
<http://www.Westnet.com.au/hibis>

About Westnet

Westnet Internet Services provides dialup and broadband Internet solutions, hosting and domain registration services, and long distance telephony. It has an extensive network of over 1800 customer service agents Australia wide.

Westnet has been voted Australia's Number 1 Internet Service Provider in Customer Satisfaction for two years in a row in 16th and 17th ACNielsen Online Surveys and Australian Online Survey 2003 and 2004, which was conducted by the leading online broadband community Whirlpool.

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