

# Electronic solution to daily bookwork

IMMEDIATE access to patient files, training manuals and company procedures are just some of the benefits a South Australian health-care provider has found in new Kindle e-book technology.

Home Support Services is trialling the electronic readers in a bid to improve efficiencies for its 150 staff to provide hospital care in about 20,000 patients' homes.

The hand-held electronic readers – released in Australia last month – can wirelessly download books, magazines, newspapers and personal documents. A single unit can store up to 500,000 sheets of paper or 1500 books.

Home Support Services is among the first in SA to recognise the benefits of Kindle applications, widely promoted for their personal use, in business.

Business development manager Nick Bullock said the business benefits had been immediate.

"It makes rostering much more efficient and is helping us to improve our rapid response times," he said.

"If we need to implement roster changes during the day to attend to urgent patient visits, we can communicate these to road staff more efficiently and provide them

**FRANCES STEWART**



with immediate access to patient files."

Mr Bullock said the devices also reduced the burden of staff carrying reference books.

"As part of best practice accreditation, our health-care workers must carry policy and procedure manuals with them at all times," he said.

"These manuals can now be pushed out to the Kindles, which means our staff don't have to carry large, heavy folders wherever they go.

"This also has environmental advantages by significantly reducing our paper use."

There were a range of other benefits, including reduced costs, Mr Bullock said.

"Kindles have the potential to save us thousands of dollars in printing costs," he said.

"As the trial progresses, we are also discovering a range of other benefits, such as the ability for staff to access street directory road maps."



**WORKING SMARTER:** Manager Nick Bullock and Home Support Services nurse Leanne Rosevear using the Kindle system. **Picture: ANDREA LAUBE**

## Your chance to study online

A NEW e-learning centre for small business owners launched by [truelocal.com.au](http://truelocal.com.au) will provide access to hundreds of courses at discounted prices.

Powered by online training and compliance company Learning Seat, the website gives businesses advertising on TrueLocal access to more than 400 online learning and development courses.

The courses include: project management, self development, IT and computing applications, bullying prevention, equal opportunity, and health and safety in the workplace.

TrueLocal chief executive John Allan said providing small businesses with easy access to training and management courses was essential in the current economic climate.

"The training and development of staff is key to any organisation, big or small," he said.

"Our new e-learning centre provides a 24/7, cost-effective, convenient training solution. The great thing about online training is its own pace, own time, own place approach, making it easy for our advertisers to implement a training program for their staff."

Both TrueLocal and Learning Seat are owned by News Corporation, parent company of *The Advertiser*.

## Walk down the green path to business success

**B**USINESSES looking to take a box seat in business are upping their green credentials.

Environmental leadership is a sought-after commodity now and one that could soon have the potential to make or break a business.

As the business community's environmental conscience grows amidst demand from consumers for green products and the sobering reality of climate change, so too do its expectations of suppliers.

As a result, corporate supply

**MICHAEL BEILBY**



chains across the world are being greened.

Tenders and contracts are increasingly requiring clear commitments from suppliers with regard to good environmental credentials, and this practice will only increase.

So how does your business measure up?

Many businesses have corporate social responsibility policies that govern their environmental practices and are now requiring their suppliers to adhere to the same standards.

This means the ongoing success of your organisation could be impacted by your carbon footprint.

However, many businesses have no idea what their carbon footprint is, let alone how to reduce it.

Others are reluctant to lead the sustainability charge, mistakenly

believing that greening their business would be a cost-prohibitive exercise.

But with a growing groundswell for change in the way businesses interact with the environment, this approach could backfire.

An easy and profitable way to improve business productivity is to stop wasting energy. This benefits the environment and helps to reduce operational costs.

If implementing sustainability initiatives into the workplace will help guarantee your business future, it is certainly a wise investment.

While there are start-up costs involved in greening your business, these will be recouped over time.

The first step toward becoming a green supplier is to conduct an independent energy efficiency audit. Once your green standing has been established, a strategic plan can be developed to reduce energy consumption and implement sustainability measures.

For savvy businesses, this is the right and the smart thing to do.

■ Michael Beilby is general manager of energy efficiency firm Big Switch Projects.

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