



Useful smart phone Apps for working with remote communities

OVERVIEW:

There are more than 22 million mobile phones in Australia — one for every man, woman and child. Nearly half (43%) are 'smartphones' — new generation mobile phones that include touch screens, portable media devices, high resolution cameras, Internet and email access.

The rapid rise of smartphones has created a global market for mobile phone applications or 'Apps.' Apps are mini software programs designed for use on the new generation smartphones. Apps are available in two main software platforms — iOS used in Apple's iPhones and iPads; and Android used in a wide range of smartphones from companies like Samsung, Motorola, Sony Ericsson and HTC. Microsoft has developed Windows Mobile for smartphones but use of this is currently limited to Nokia smartphones.

More than a million Apps are available for download covering a wide range of uses and interests including: games, social networking, news, TV shows, music, movies, productivity and business.

HOW DO I DOWNLOAD AN APP FOR MY PHONE?

Some Apps come pre-installed onto your new smartphone, others need to be downloaded via an online store. The type of App you can download depends upon what brand of mobile phone you have.

The major platforms you can purchase Apps from are:

- Apple iPhone — uses App Store.
- Android (Samsung, Motorola, Sony Ericsson and HTC); uses Android Market or Google Play.
- Windows (Nokia); uses Marketplace.

Some Apps require access to your phone that you may not feel comfortable providing. Make sure you read what the Apps will access before you download.

DOWNLOADING AN APPLE APP

Try these steps to download an Apple App:

First, you will need an Apple ID (you can do this from your iPhone by selecting 'App Store' then 'Create New Account' and follow the prompts).

1. When your Apple ID is set up select 'App Store'
2. You can find an App from the 'Featured', 'Categories' or 'Top 25' options at the bottom of the screen or you can search for an App.
3. Select the App you want to download, a new screen will appear with information on the App including cost to download and App file size, (remember, you cannot download an Apple App bigger than 20MB to your iPhone).

4. Click on the price button or 'Free' if there is no charge for the App to download it.
5. You will need to enter your Apple ID password and the App will be installed on your phone.

DOWNLOADING AN ANDROID APP

Try these steps to find and download an App for your Android-based phone:

1. First, you will need to set up a Google account (<https://accounts.google.com/NewAccount>)
2. Using the Applications Menu, open the Android Marketplace.
3. Use the Search to find a specific App or simply browse until you find one that interests you.
4. Have a careful read of the rating and description of the App, especially the file size (don't download the App if it is too big eg. bigger than 20MB).
5. Click on the App and click the Install button.
6. A prompt will appear asking you to agree to the terms of using the App, accept this and the App will be installed on your phone.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO DOWNLOAD AN APP?

A lot of Apps are free, while others (paid Apps) involve a small one-off charge. Don't forget that to download any App you will be using some of your mobile phone download credit, this is determined by the contract you have for your phone. If you are using a pre-paid phone be very careful about which Apps you decide to download as you can very quickly use up all your phone credit.

The cost of a paid App will depend on the size of the application and also how popular it is. Some paid Apps are also available in a free or 'lite' version, which gives you a short trial period. If you like the trial version, you can then pay to upgrade to the full paid version. Some free Apps earn money by placing advertising within the App itself.



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SOME USEFUL APPS FOR REMOTE COMMUNITIES

If you live in a remote community, you might want to download the Apps below:

NAME OF APP	DESCRIPTION	FEATURES	APPLE VERSION	ANDROID VERSION	DOWNLOAD SIZE
Weatherzone	7 Day forecast with min and max temperatures, chance of rain, amount of rain, UV forecast, sunrise and sunset times.	Animated rain radar, Postcode, town name or GPS search, weather forecasts for over 2000 Australian and 1500 international locations.	Yes (free)	Yes (free)	17.9MB
St Johns Ambulance First Aid	Shows how to respond to 13 of the most common and critical conditions that require immediate life-saving First Aid like choking, burns, fractures, asthma and severe bleeding.		Yes (\$3.99 from App Store.)	No (They are planning to release an Android version late 2012.)	13MB
Big Oven	Provides over 250,000 easy to follow recipes that you can search by different categories.		Yes (free)	Yes (free)	8MB
SKYPE	Call, video conferencing and instant message anyone else on Skype for free with Skype for your iPhone or iPod touch. Can all overseas but calls are cheap.		Yes (free)	Yes (free)	17.8MB
Medicines List	Reminder alerts for taking your medicines and monitor medicine taken. Allows you to capture all the important information about your medicines (brand, active ingredient, strength and dosage of your medicines).	Helps avoid medicine mix-ups and brand confusion. It also stops you having to repeat or re-write the list each time you see your doctor or pharmacist.	Yes (free)	No	3.6MB
Werels	A voice guided turn-by-turn navigation App covering Australian cities and regional centres. Get to your destination quickly and easily.		Yes (free)	Yes (free)	5.7MB

A BASICSCARD APP

One App that would be of great value to people in remote Aboriginal Communities is one that allows you to check the balance on your BasicsCard. Currently, the process of checking the balance on your card can be difficult and time consuming.

Currently BasicsCard holders are able to check their BasicsCard balance by:

- calling the Department of Human Services (DHS) on Freecall 1800 057 111;
- using their online BasicsCard balance-enquiry service (centrelink.gov.au/wps/portal/clk_common);
- calling the Income Management line on 132 594;
- using a BasicsCard kiosk, available in selected locations;
- visiting your nearest DHS Service Centre.

The online BasicsCard balance-enquiry service, while not an 'App' as such, will detect when a person is using a mobile device to access the page and will display the 'mobile friendly' web page shown (see image).

BasicsCard holders simply need to enter their card number and their PIN and their balance will be displayed on the page. The benefit of a mobile friendly web page is that it's not dependant on the device being used and there is no need for the person to download an 'App'.

The Department of Human Services is currently developing its first mobile 'application' to allow BasicsCard holder to check their balance using a smartphone. No release date has been set yet for this App and DHS advises that further announcements will be made as development proceeds.

