

## MEDIA RELEASE

7 May 2020

### **Virtual Neighbourhood Centre to ensure communities remain connected**

Gladstone Regional Council (GRC) is proud to launch a Virtual Neighbourhood Centre to ensure our communities remain connected during the ongoing Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) health emergency.

Several of Council's community facilities have been temporarily closed including Council's regional libraries, entertainment centre, art gallery and its Neighbourhood Centre at 105 Toolooa Street, following COVID-19 advice from the Queensland and Australian Governments.

Due to the temporary closure of these valued community assets, Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said a virtual platform was developed to ensure that all members of our community have a sense of social connectedness and access to Council's programs and services regardless of location.

"The Virtual Neighbourhood Centre will ensure our communities are connected with Council programs and community services," Councillor Burnett said.

"The centre will offer a space for the community to engage and connect with likeminded residents and existing services in order to encourage social connectedness, inclusivity and support.

"It includes information for families, youth, seniors, businesses, active living, lifestyle, arts, culture and entertainment, plus a Councillors Café allowing residents to ask our Councillors questions which they will answer over a virtual cuppa and chat.

"Council remains committed to maintaining our community's connectedness to services by increasing accessibility and creating this innovative online platform to facilitate this engagement."

Please visit [www.gladstone.qld.gov.au](http://www.gladstone.qld.gov.au) and click on the Virtual Neighbourhood Centre tile to get involved.

The Virtual Neighbourhood Centre is supported by the Queensland Government Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors.

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