



Media Release

AMANDA RISHWORTH MP
Federal Member for Kingston

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Hearing-impaired grandmother reunited with grandson overseas this Christmas thanks to the National Broadband Network!

For the first time since he left for the United Kingdom and after months of separation, Shirley Ackehurst has been able to speak with her grandson Joel Garrett thanks to the National Broadband Network (NBN).

As residents of the Willunga community which is a first release site for the NBN, Ms Ackehurst's family are now connected to high speed broadband and are amazed by the very special possibilities it has presented for them this Christmas.

Shirley's daughter Corinne Garrett said that while the rest of the family has managed to stay in touch with Joel via the telephone or by using Skype video, Shirley has been unable to do this because of her hearing impairment.

Ms Garrett said "For the first time since he's been away, mum has been able to connect with Joel thanks to the NBN and that's an amazing thing.

"We just connected up the computer in my home in Willunga and my son connected up his in the UK and we could chat to him while he was having breakfast and we were having dinner.

"Of course it was so noisy around the dinner table that mum couldn't have heard what my son was saying but the connection was so good, so clear and so reliable that mum could actually lip-read what he was saying anyway and hold a conversation with him across the other side of the world for the first time. It was really special."

Amanda Rishworth MP said this was just one example of the opportunities presented by the National Broadband Network.

Ms Rishworth said "When we hear touching stories like this we realise the enormous potential of this cutting edge technology to transform the way we live, learn and communicate with our friends and family.

"I am especially pleased that residents here in Southern Adelaide are among the first to be able to explore the extensive possibilities of high speed broadband."