Digital Skills Course

CHALLENGE

TAFE NSW, Australia's largest vocational education and training provider, strives to prepare students for today's working world, in which more and more jobs require digital literacy. This goal has been aided by a proliferation of online learning, which is opening new doors to remote, rural, and non-traditional students, but **online courses still require students to have certain digital skills in order to participate**. This challenge is particularly pertinent in Australia, where approximately ⅓ of the population lives in rural or remote areas.

SOLUTION

"Digital Skills" is an innovative online course created by TAFE NSW that is freely available to all TAFE students. Learners 16–70 years of age **develop digital confidence and acquire basic digital proficiencies and skills to help them enter and excel in today's workforce.** Skills include setting up a computer, installing software, connecting devices, managing safety and security, using web-based tools, and more.

The Digital Skills course uses innovative adaptive technology, Smart Sparrow, to create an engaging visual experience, provide hands-on practice, deliver real-time personalized guidance, and assess mastery. The course allows students to **access learning anytime anywhere, and to learn at their own pace**, adapting their study around their unique circumstances. The course **tracks learner performance against key competencies** needed to succeed in today's workforce and/or complete additional online courses. It showcases completed achievements, highlights skills requiring continued practice, and culminates in a Certificate of Completion.

LEARNING IMPACT OUTCOMES

As TAFE NSW implements the Digital Skills course to prepare learners for success in digital work and online courses, students can **feel more confident entering today's workforce** and instructors can **focus their time on the core learning goals of their courses**.

"This is a great intro product that can reinforce digital literacy requirements and navigating TAFE computing for learners at all levels. Learners are increasingly required to work in multiple screens, so that information is gold." –TAFE Student, feedback from Prototype Testing

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

With Digital Skills, TAFE students are empowered to pursue their educational and professional goals, at no additional cost. With this new digital student resource, **TAFE expects to see increased completion rates** in TAFE Digital courses, **more effective teaching** by instructors, and **improved employment rates for graduates**.