



# Broadband Connection

What retirement villages residents need to know about Broadband.

## BROADBAND CONNECTION PLAN

Some retirement village operators offer a broadband connection plan specifically negotiated for their village residents. How do you know if this is the best plan for you? The answer depends on whether you know how much broadband you really need and how fast it needs to be to suit your needs. There may be better options for you arranging your own connection instead of going with the operator's plan.

## HOW MUCH INTERNET DO I NEED?

Internet plans are based on monthly usage which is defined by the amount of GB (giga bytes) that you use. The more GB you have access to, the more you can do.

HOW MUCH GB YOU NEED A MONTH FOR:	
MONTHLY USAGE	RECOMMENDED MONTHLY DATA
Sending e-mails, making calls on Skype, social media	15GB/month
Streaming movies and music, online gaming, watching YouTube videos	100GB/month
Everything you want	Unlimited



## HOW FAST DOES MY INTERNET NEED TO BE?

Internet speed is defined by mb/s (megabytes/second). Think about it like a water hose. Say you need to fill your 100-gallon pool. If your garden hose puts out 5 gallons of water per minute, you'll be waiting 20 minutes to fill the pool. But a hose that delivers 50 gallons of water per minute will fill the pool in 2 minutes. The same applies to the internet. The more megabytes you have, the faster you will be able to surf the web!

There are two types of speeds to look out for. Download speed and upload speed. Download speed is the speed the data is transferred from the Internet to your computer. The upload speed is the speed the data is transferred from your computer to the Internet. Usually the download speed will be much faster than the upload speed since most of the online activity, like loading web pages or streaming videos, consists of downloads.



## DOWNLOAD SPEEDS AND LOAD TIMES

This table of download speeds and load times indicates how fast you can carry out some online activities:

SPEED	TIME TO LOAD A WEB PAGE / OPENING EMAILS	TIME TO DOWNLOAD A 5-MINUTE SONG	STREAMING QUALITY OF VIDEOS
10 mbps	Instant	2.5 seconds	Medium
25 mbps	Instant	Instant	TV quality
75 mbps	Instant	Instant	HD (High definition)
100+mpbs	Instant	Instant	4k (Highest definition)

### Example:

Mark is a 72-year-old retirement village resident in Gisborne. He uses the Internet to send emails to his daughter who lives in London, check pictures of his grandchildren on Facebook and watch occasional YouTube videos. His usual online activity time is around 1 hour maximum per day. As Mark's online activity is not very high, he would be better off to get a plan with 50 GB with 50mbps(download)/10mbps(upload) speed. That will be more than enough to carry out his activities with ease.



## HOW DO I GET STARTED?

The way people start is by getting a plan. A broadband plan gives you a certain amount of GB and Internet speed. We recommend the following websites to get a good overview of which plans are best for you.

- Broadband Checker <http://bit.ly/2L6HkyD>
- Compare New Zealand's best broadband deals [www.broadbandcompare.co.nz](http://www.broadbandcompare.co.nz)

Simply type your address into the broadband checker and they will give you a breakdown of the types of broadband connection available at your location.

## USEFUL TIPS

- 1 Reflect on your intended Internet usage** before buying any plan. If you only send emails, browse the web, and stream an occasional YouTube video, you don't need ultra-fast speed Internet with unlimited storage.
- 2 Always read the small print.** Providers will often advertise low rates, but small print may state that the price is only applicable for the first 3 or 6 first months.
- 3 Ask about disconnection fees** if you want to change providers before finishing your existing plan.

