



eTELIT

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3G network to close

(This article was written by ACCAN on 27/4/23)

Australia's telecommunications landscape is undergoing a significant change with the impending switch-off of 3G (or third generation) mobile technology services. In 2019, the country's major telecommunications companies, Telstra, Optus, and Vodafone,

announced their plans to retire their 3G networks to make way for the faster and more efficient 4G and 5G services.

The switch-off, set to take place later this year and in the second half of 2024, will affect many Australian consumers and businesses. As can be seen below, the big networks are all planning different switch off dates.

- Telstra June 2024
- TPG December 2023
- Optus September 2024
- Vodafone August 2024

3G needs to be replaced with new standards

3G was first introduced in Australia in 2005, promising faster mobile data speeds, better call quality, and improved multimedia capabilities compared to the earlier 2G technology. It was the first mobile technology to enable mobile internet access and paved the way for many of the apps and services in use today.

However, 3G technology has become outdated with the rapid advancements in mobile technology. The latest 4G and 5G networks offer faster data speeds, lower latency, and improved network capacity, enabling a range of new applications and services that were not possible with 3G.

There is a finite amount of radio spectrum available and telecommunication companies need to reallocate spectrum to the new standards to provide faster and more reliable services to customers.

What can consumers and businesses do to prepare?

Consumers and businesses that still use 3G technology should start planning to upgrade their devices or migrate to newer technologies to avoid disruptions. They can check with their service providers to see if their current devices are compatible with 4G or 5G networks or if they need to upgrade to a new device.

Businesses that use 3G for their operations, such as machine-to-machine (M2M) applications, Point of Sale, and Internet of Things (IoT) devices, will also be affected.

Businesses should conduct a thorough inventory of their devices and identify the ones that need to be upgraded or replaced. They should also work with their service providers to ensure a smooth transition to newer technologies and minimise disruptions to their operations.



Vale Trevor Conquest and John Rodgers. The legacy of a trainer and a developer

Last month we lost two good men who have played a significant role in telecommunications in their own individual way. Trevor Conquest in Queensland and John Rodgers in Victoria. Trevor a trainer and a contributor to training products and John a developer of modern training products.

Trevor had a lot of experience in a high-level technical role in Telecom Australia before setting up a Private Registered Training Organisation in Queensland, delivering high quality telecommunications and related training programs and coaching. He wrote his own resources, built a private LMS, moved his resources to an online format with test, pictures, videos, audio and animations. He was a go to man for cablers seeking ACMA Cabling Provider Rules Registration Qualifications, where they were needing coaching and Recognition of Prior Learning/Competencies. He was known for driving a 2-ton trailer with equipment all over Qld to deliver face to face practical components of Telecommunications Training and assessments. Having worked for 33 years in the industry he was frequently consulted for advice on technical aspects of Radio Communications, Cabling and Fibre.

RPL/RPC assessments and coaching are not always available from RTOs due to costing and funding constraints. A number of ex-military members, with good military qualifications that did not quite fit standard CPR Qualifications streams, were assisted over the years by Trevor in coaching and Recognition of their military qualifications, to gain Cabler Provider Rules registrations.

John Rodgers was on the development side of the training sector and working for DAT, a consultancy firm set up by Dennis Trevarthen in the early 1990's. Dennis is still consulting in data and telecommunications today. John was the principal consultant on developing the first Telecommunications Training Package ICT97 for the "original" Telecommunications Industry Training Advisory Board (TITAB). It was one of the first

four Training Packages developed nationally, after implementation of national Competency Based Training (CBT).

It involved hundreds of industry representatives nationwide with John and TITAB running detailed industry consultations. The Telecommunication Training Package ICT 97 was a major work costing thousands of dollars and was a model for the future. It was a complete package –Competencies, Assessment materials to match and Training Modules (curriculum) that were directly linked to the competencies.

Since the 90's John worked on a number of telecommunications training development projects for telcos and related companies and a number of significant projects for TITAB Australia and was one of the most capable consultants on our projects, we ever had. He worked with Trevor on some of the more complex technical components of our projects and design of qualifications.

It would be amiss to not mention that both Trevor and John were not only significant industry figures, but were very fond and lovable friends and characters to many in our industry as well as to their beloved colleagues. Even though they worked without fanfare, their legacy will help in guiding many of us, as the future model of remote delivery and CBT evolves.

Our condolences go out to their families and friends.



Webinar: The Importance of applying S009 and adhering to its guidelines?

Our first in a series of webinars has been completed and it seems it was well received. The topic was “The importance of applying S009 and adhering to its guidelines”. The webinar was presented by Paul Stathis, CEO of BICSI South Pacific and BRCA and Ian Millner ICT Infrastructure consultant for the International Copper Association

Australia. It covered the conventional requirements of S009 through to ES1, ES2 and ES3 and onto Fitness for Purpose, finishing off on how to “Cover your Butt”.

If you did not get a chance to attend, you can see it by [clicking here](#). You can watch the video and download the presentation. The presentation has live links which you may find useful.

Next in the series will be held later on this year and will cover the Deployment of WiFi in residential premises.



[Click here for S009 webinar](#)

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There are two payment types

1. Fee-free training must meet eligibility criteria below
2. Subsidised training

Eligibility criteria for fee-free training:

- Are you aged between 15-24 years and not enrolled in secondary school?
- Are you receiving JobSeeker or JobKeeper?
- Are you receiving or a dependent of a person receiving Youth Allowance, AUSTUDY or ABSTUDY?
- Do you hold, or are you a dependent of a person who holds:
- a Pensioner Concession Card or Health Care Card; or

- a Repatriation Health Benefits Card issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs?
- Are you a dependent of persons who are inmates of a custodial institution?

If you answered yes to any of the above eligibility requirements, you will be eligible for fee-free training.

Please note students attending high school do not qualify for any subsidies

If you did not answer yes, you are still eligible for subsidised training, please see the fee table below.

Fee Type Amount Eligible for fee-free training No charge Eligible for concession \$81.60 Eligible for subsidised training \$275.40

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Or call our centre on 08 9355 5770

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