

# a little CRC...



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## The Three Types of Internet in Northcliffe ADSL internet

Northcliffe has three main forms of internet. (I am not counting dial-up internet which doesn't really work with today's internet):

1. ADSL internet. (including ADSL2+)
2. Satellite internet
3. Cellular Wireless internet. This is also known as just 'Wireless Internet', 3G (or 4G) internet, or Mobile Wireless internet.

Cellular Wireless Internet is NOT WiFi. WiFi is not a form of internet!

### WiFi is NOT a Form of Internet

WiFi is a way of distributing your internet around the house without the use of cables. WiFi can generally only travel about 50 metres. WiFi on its own provides no connection to the internet.

Where this gets confusing is that WiFi is sometimes referred to as 'Wireless' and so it gets confused with Cellular Wireless internet.

This is a very important point to know if you are going to buy a tablet. Tablets (including Kindle e-books) come in two forms:

Option A. WiFi only

Option B. WiFi plus Cellular Wireless internet (Cellular could be referred to as 3G, 4G or Mobile Wireless).

While the two tablet options may look identical on the outside, Option B is generally at least \$100 more expensive to buy than Option A. And this is only the start of the additional cost (See info box, right).

If you buy an Option A tablet and want to use it with the internet you will need to pick one of the three forms of internet at the top of this page and then create your own WiFi hotspot around your house.

### Create Your Own WiFi Hotspot

Step 1—First get your internet connection.

Step 2—Second, create a WiFi hotspot.

All three forms of internet listed at the top of this article have modem options available which can create a WiFi hotspot with no extra equipment needed. These modems often have 'rabbit ears' (aerials). If you already have a modem and it has no 'rabbit ears' you may need to buy a WiFi router to attach to create your hotspot.

You can sometimes create a WiFi hotspot with equipment you already own. Example 1: Most mobile smartphones can connect to Cellular Wireless Internet, and create a WiFi hotspot. Example 2: If you connect your laptop to the internet with a Telstra USB stick, you can ask your laptop to create a WiFi hotspot.

Just remember Cellular Wireless internet is quite expensive to use; especially when you have a plan which includes phone-calls AND internet. Finally, beware of pre-paid pricing. It is easy to use up a Telstra prepaid voucher on the internet in less than five minutes.

To get ADSL internet you will need a telephone line and to be close enough to the telephone exchange behind the General Store. Sometimes your line will be tested as 'not suitable for ADSL' even if you are very close to the exchange. It's hit and miss. Apply and see if you qualify. Sometimes persistence pays off in trying to get ADSL connected.



Where it is available, ADSL is almost always the best choice of internet connection.

**Satellite internet** is the only form of internet connection which attracts a Government subsidy. The subsidy is only available if you can prove you cannot access the other two types of internet: ADSL and Cellular Wireless internet.



In 2016 a new form of satellite internet connection will become available, through the NBN scheme. This will be a much faster form of satellite internet, using two brand new satellites due to be launched this year.

At this time, the assumption is that installation of receivers and other hardware to connect to this new internet service in 2016 will be FREE TO EVERYONE IN THE NORTHCLIFFE AREA. Of course there will still be ongoing costs to access the internet. If you have ADSL you may find that for price and performance



### Cellular Wireless internet, if

*you live in Northcliffe, is only available from Telstra.* You have the option of pre-paid or signing up to a regular plan. Both of these options are very expensive ways of accessing the internet but prepaid can be twenty times more expensive!

Because of this expense, Cellular Wireless internet users need to get crafty about how they use their 'data allowance'. This can involve using WiFi connections when available and learning how and when to switch off their Data Connection or their device updates.

Many people have a mobile phone contract with Telstra that provides them both phone calls and Cellular Wireless Internet via their phone.

Cellular Wireless internet contracts which don't involve a mobile phone provide much better value for money in the strange world of Telstra pricing...

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