

In the Beginning.....a background to BushNet

- Dominant driver was the School of Medicine
- Traditionally 3 years on campus/3 years in hospital
- Late 90s a greater role for teaching hospitals introduced
- Late 90s a greater role on rural exposure for all students
- 2000 Dubbo, Orange, Bathurst Clinical Schools established.

Geography



Wants to vs Can do

- Remote (non-suburban) clinical schools required considerable network access
- Students spend around 6 months during the 4 year course at remote schools
- Equity of access
 - Lectures from Sydney
 - Lectures from teaching hospitals
 - Grand Rounds from hospitals
- Internet (e.g. medline)
- Lifelong learning
- CSU – E3 (34 Mbit/sec) to Dubbo and Orange, 2 Mbit/sec to share
- Very limited carrier offerings

Desires vs Requires

Desires

- Fibre access ex-Sydney to each remote Clinical School
- Wide bandwidth cost effective managed services
- 100 Mbit/sec plus IP

Requires

- High quality video for lectures
- Wide bandwidth internet
- VOIP (future)
- Low latency, high capacity IP

Technology vs Marketing

Technology

- Managed Services
- Fibre
- Microwave

Carriers (Suppliers)

- Telstra
- Optus
- NextGen
- Transgrid
- Railways
- SPT
- ATI

Results

- No rational responses from carriers
- Affordable microwave option

Reality vs Budget

- Possible sharing with other users in the region
 - CSU
 - CSIRO
 - Midwest Health
 - Macquarie Area Health
 - NSW Department of Health
- Funding options
 - NCF
 - Rural bonded student funds
 - Commonwealth Department of Health, one off grants

Futures

- NextGen/AARNet
- More cost effective and accessible fibre
- Video streaming

Lessons

- Applications not technology drive networks
.....understand your requirements
- Promises don't carry traffic
.....know your suppliers
- Aggregate funding buys more
.....play the politics



