

ONLINE PLATFORMS: COMPARISON EDUCATION & TRAINING PLATFORMS

The following assessment considers software platforms that can be used to host audio-visual meetings, and enable remote education and training activities. Of those platforms compared (*Footnote 1* outlines additional platforms found unsuitable for PJSI’s purposes), where users are already utilising Microsoft Office 365 platforms (through email accounts, Sharepoint and cloud storage), the recommendation would be to utilise the free video/audio conferencing software associated with Microsoft Teams for internal communications, meetings and trainings. Where recording of content is required, or extensive engagement of external participants is expected, either Zoom or WebEx (depending on the available bandwidth and ability to download software, with WebEx requiring pre-download and registration) would be suitable.

This research was undertaken to assist PJSI’s programmatic activities. It was conducted internally and is not a comprehensive assessment. PJSI recommends that you use this information as a guide only, and undertake further research to determine which program/s be suits your individual needs.

Platform	Microsoft Teams		Zoom		WebEx		Google Meet ¹	Skype ²
Link	https://www.microsoft.com/en-au/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software		https://zoom.us/signup		https://cart.webex.com/sign-up		https://gsuite.google.com.au/intl/en_au/pricing.html	https://www.skype.com/
Starting Cost ³	Free ⁴	\$6.90	Free	\$20.99	Free	\$18.95	\$8.40 ⁵	Free ⁶
Ease of Set-up and Use ⁷	😊	😊	😊	😊	😬	😬	😊	😊
Participant Numbers	Up to 250	250+	Up to 100	Up to 100	Up to 100	Up to 100	100+	Up to 50
Meeting Numbers	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited

¹ Note: this is formerly Google Hangout. Google Hangout is being phased out, but is still [currently available online](#) for immediate, free video calls with up to 10 people.

² Please note: [Skype for Business](#) will be retired and replaced by Microsoft Teams by July 31, 2021. Other platforms considered and determined unsuitable for PJSI’s purpose include: [Whereby](#); [True Conference](#); [GoToMeeting](#); [ClickMeeting](#); [UMeeting](#); and [BigBlueButton](#).

³ All costs are in Australian Dollars (AUD), are calculated monthly, and are per subscription/user.

⁴ For any organisation already using Microsoft Office 365 emails and platforms.

⁵ This price includes the full suite of GSuite products, including: video conferencing, web chat, email address, online cloud storage and website builders.

⁶ When calling another Skype account.

⁷ These ratings have been applied by the PJSI team based upon PJSI’s experience with set-up and use of these platforms.

Platform	Microsoft Teams		Zoom		WebEx		Google Meet	Skype
Meeting duration	Unlimited	Unlimited	40 minutes	24 hours	50 minutes	24 hours	24 hours	24 hours
Screen Share	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
File Sharing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Messaging	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Audio Calls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Video Calls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Break-out Rooms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Application and Browser	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recording	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Registration required by participants	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Security	It is recommended that Partner Courts explore the various security considerations of each platform, in order to identify which is most suitable to their needs. This may include considerations of: encryption; manual security settings; two-factor authentication for access to accounts; level of security and protection from accidental and deliberate security breaches; and security of data stored on the platform, among others.							
Bandwidth ⁸	1.2 mbps	1.2 mbps	600 kbps	600 kbps	500 kbps	500 kbps	1.5 mbps	128 kbps

⁸ The bandwidths listed are the minimum required in order to run the software effectively for audio/video calls. Bandwidth is the range of frequencies required to transmit a signal (the amount of data that can flow in a given time). *Mbps* stands for megabits per second, and *kbps* stands for kilobits per second. 1,000 kbps equals 1 mbps.