



Australian Government



Satellite Subsidy Scheme - Regional and Remote Queensland

Analog TV signals will be gradually phased out across the country between 2010 and 2013, and Australian TV will become digital-only.

On 6 December 2011 areas of regional Queensland will switch off their analog signal and remote areas will switch in 2013. To access digital TV, some towns will need to switch to satellite TV.

How can I access digital TV when the analog signal is switched off?

Households that currently rely on TV reception from an analog self-help tower that is **not** being converted to digital will need to access free-to-air digital TV through the new Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) service.

To access the satellite service, households will need satellite TV equipment including a satellite dish and a set-top box that is 'VAST certified'.

If you do not switch to VAST, you may not be able to access free-to-air television when the analog TV signal is switched off in your area.

Which channels will be on the new VAST satellite service?

The VAST service will show the following 17 digital channels: ABC1, ABC2, ABC3, ABC News24, SBS HD, SBS ONE, SBS TWO, 7mate (SevenHD), GEM(Nine HD), ONE, Southern Cross Seven, Imparja Nine, Ten, 7TWO, GO!, Eleven and a dedicated local news channel.

What is the Satellite Subsidy Scheme?

Under the Satellite Subsidy Scheme, the Australian Government will subsidise the installation of satellite TV equipment (a VAST set-top box and satellite dish) in eligible households that currently rely on TV reception from an analog self-help tower that is not being converted to digital.

Applications for regional and remote Queensland opened on **30 May 2011**.

What is a self-help Tower?

Self-help towers are typically located in areas where there is no TV reception or poor reception from the main broadcaster tower.

To see the list of towns in Queensland served by self-help towers that will not be converted to digital, visit www.digitalready.gov.au/subsidy or call the Digital Ready Information Line on 1800 20 10 13.

How much is the subsidy?

The subsidy will range from \$400-\$700 depending on where you live. It will not be paid as cash to households and households will not be reimbursed if they have already installed satellite TV equipment.

Subsidised installation of VAST satellite TV equipment in households will be completed by qualified installers contracted by the Australian Government and who have experience in satellite dish

installation. The Government will pay the subsidy directly to the contractor and the amount will be deducted from the total cost of the installation.

The subsidy is limited to one per eligible household.

Will I have to pay anything?

Yes, you will incur some cost to convert to digital TV. Eligible households in Queensland that receive the VAST installation package will have to contribute **\$220** towards the cost of installation, payable directly to the contractor on the day of installation.

This is a one-off cost and there are no ongoing fees to receive the VAST service.

If you receive the **maximum rate** of one of the following payments: Age Pension; Disability Support Pension; Carer Payment; Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) service pension or the DVA income support supplement payment, please call Centrelink on **1800 55 64 43** as you may be eligible for further assistance.

What do I get?

The subsidised installation package will include:

- the installation of a satellite dish and any necessary cabling
- a high definition VAST certified set-top box
- a demonstration by the installer of the new digital channels and the local news channel

This service provides connection of one TV set in your home and the Government contractor will be able to connect further TV sets should you wish, at your expense.

Who is eligible?

Only certain towns and localities in Queensland are eligible for the Satellite Subsidy Scheme.

To be eligible:

- the area you live in must be identified as relying on TV reception from an analog self-help retransmission tower that will not be converted to digital
- the applicant must be the owner, landlord or tenant of the dwelling where the equipment is to be installed and be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia aged 18 years or over
- the dwelling where the equipment is to be installed must be a self-contained residential dwelling, at a distinct address.

Commercial dwellings are not eligible for the subsidy.

How can I apply?

Step 1 - Check your eligibility and apply online by visiting the Digital Ready website, www.digitalready.gov.au/subsidy or calling the Digital Ready Information Line on **1800 20 10 13**.

Step 2 - If you have applied and are eligible, you will be sent a letter from the Digital Switchover Taskforce with details about how your installation will be arranged.

Step 3 - A representative from the Government contracted installer will contact you by phone or letter to arrange an installation time.

Step 4 - The VAST television equipment will be installed. On the day of installation, you pay the government contracted installer the household contribution amount of **\$220**.

APPLICATIONS FOR QUEENSLAND CLOSE ON 2 OCTOBER 2011