

# Satellite Subsidy Scheme

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

To access digital TV, some towns in regional and remote Australia will need to switch to the new Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) service.

## Which channels will be on the new VAST service?

The VAST service will show the following 17 digital channels: ABC1, ABC2, ABC3, ABC News 24, SBS ONE, SBS TWO, SBS HD, Southern Cross Seven, 7TWO, 7mate, Imparja Nine, GO!, GEM, Ten, One, Eleven and a dedicated local news channel.

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

## What is the Satellite Subsidy Scheme?

Households in regional and remote areas that currently rely on TV reception from a local analog self-help tower, which is not being converted to digital, may be eligible for 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.

The subsidy will be rolled out progressively across Australia. Households will receive a letter inviting them to apply for the subsidy when it opens in their area.



Australian Government

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## How much is the subsidy?

The subsidy will range depending on where you live. The subsidy 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 dwelling.

## Will I have to pay anything?


Yes, you will incur some cost to convert to digital TV. Eligible households that receive the VAST installation package will have to contribute to 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 full 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, please call Centrelink on **1800 556 443** as you may be eligible for further assistance.

Want more  
information?

Contact the Digital Switchover

 1800 20 10 13

 [www.digitalready.gov.au](http://www.digitalready.gov.au)



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## Who is eligible?

Only certain areas across regional and remote Australia 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
- you 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 at **[www.digitalready.gov.au/subsidy](http://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 equipment will be installed. On the day of installation, you pay the government contracted installer the household contribution amount.


## Where can I find out more?

To find out when the Satellite Subsidy Scheme is available in select areas across regional and remote Australia visit the

Digital Ready website **[www.digitalready.gov.au/subsidy](http://www.digitalready.gov.au/subsidy)** or call the Digital Ready Information Line on **1800 20 10 13**.

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