



Australian Government

Digital Switchover Taskforce



## Information for tenants—preparing your home for digital TV

Between 2010 and 2013 the free-to-air analog TV signals are being switched off and replaced with digital-only signals across Australia.

To keep receiving free-to-air TV after the change from analog to digital, you will need a television that is capable of receiving the digital TV signals. You do not have to buy a new TV if you do not want to as you can convert your existing analog TV by connecting a set top box or a digital TV recorder. If you are buying a new TV make sure it has a built-in digital tuner. If you have this equipment and can't receive the free-to-air digital TV channels available in your area, you may need to talk to your landlord or property manager about the antenna system servicing your home. It may need to be upgraded, or a new external antenna installed.

### Upgrading the antenna system

#### 1. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the antenna system?

If you live in a free-standing house, you may wish to check the tenancy agreement to see if it says anything about who is responsible for the external antenna. You might also want to look at the tenancy legislation in your state or territory to see what it says about adding or altering fixtures, such as external antennas.

In most cases, if the external antenna on your property was there when you moved in, then your landlord is responsible for ensuring it is in working condition. This would include arranging for any necessary upgrade or replacement to ensure good digital TV reception.

If you do not currently have an external antenna, but you think you will need one, you should talk to your landlord.

#### 2. What if I live in an apartment?

Larger buildings like an apartment block or group of townhouses may have a shared antenna system, also known as a Master Antenna TV (MATV) system. While many shared antenna systems are adequate for both analog and digital TV reception, some may need to be upgraded or replaced. In some cases, a shared antenna system may need to be installed for the first time.

In a residential building, the owners' corporation (or body corporate) is responsible for maintaining and repairing common property, including a shared antenna system.

As a first step, contact your strata or building manager, or ask your landlord to have any existing antenna system inspected by an experienced antenna installer.

### 3. What if I live in public housing?

If you live in public housing, you should contact your local representative to find out what their policy is in regards to upgrading antenna systems for digital TV.

### 4. What information can I give my landlord and/or property manager?

The brochure, *Is your rental property ready for digital TV?*, and the information sheet, *Information for landlords and property managers*, provide advice about upgrading antenna systems prior to analog TV signals being switched off in your area. Both are available from the digital ready website, [www.digitalready.gov.au](http://www.digitalready.gov.au). For hardcopies to be sent out to you, call the Digital Ready Information Line on 1800 20 10 13.

### 5. What if my landlord refuses to upgrade the antenna system?

If your landlord refuses to upgrade the antenna system or install a new antenna, and you think this is a breach of the tenancy agreement, you may choose to take the matter to the tenancy tribunal (or equivalent) in your state or territory. If you are unsure of your rights, or want some advice before taking this step, contact the tenants' union or advice service in your state or territory.

### 6. Is there any assistance available for the purchase of digital TV equipment?

The Household Assistance Scheme will help eligible individuals to receive free-to-air digital TV signals by providing the following package free of charge:

- High definition set top box
- Installation of the set top box
- Instruction on how to use it

Where you own your own home, and your home does not have a shared antenna system, the Scheme will also cover any necessary upgrades to external cabling and antenna systems.

You may be eligible for assistance under the Household Assistance Scheme if you live in a TV licence area undergoing switchover, do not already have access to a digital TV, and receive the maximum rate:

- Age Pension
- Disability Support Pension
- Carer Payment
- Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Service Pension, or
- DVA Income Support Supplement.

Where Centrelink determines that two people are in a couple or couple-like relationship, then only one assistance package will be provided for both members of that relationship.

Potentially eligible people will receive a letter inviting them to participate in the Scheme approximately six months before their area is due to switch.

If you think you may be eligible for assistance, you can test your eligibility for assistance under the Household Assistance Scheme by calling Centrelink on 1800 55 64 43.

## Where can I find out more?

To find out more about the switch to digital TV and the resources that can help you prepare your home, visit [www.digitalready.gov.au](http://www.digitalready.gov.au)

### *Digital TV Antenna Systems Handbooks*

These handbooks provide advice for owners and residents of:

- units, apartment blocks and other buildings with a shared antenna system
- houses with a single antenna.

Handbooks can be downloaded from [www.digitalready.gov.au](http://www.digitalready.gov.au)

### *Antenna Systems eToolkit (ASeT)*

ASeT provides detailed information about antenna equipment, cabling and installation, as well as cost estimates for a range of technical solutions to ensure your building can adequately receive and distribute TV signals.

The facility is available from [www.digitalready.gov.au/mdu](http://www.digitalready.gov.au/mdu)