



Getting help on the digital switchover

What help is there for the elderly and people with disabilities to switchover to digital TV?

The Australian Government has established the Household Assistance Scheme to provide assistance to eligible households to switchover to digital TV, including the supply, installation and demonstration of a high definition set-top box specifically chosen to meet the needs of the elderly or those with a disability. The installation work is performed by government contracted installers.

Who is eligible for the Household Assistance Scheme?

Households will be eligible for assistance where they own a functioning TV, do not already have access to digital TV and at least one resident is in receipt of a maximum rate Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) service pension or the DVA income support supplement payment. More information on the Household Assistance Scheme is available at www.digitalready.com.au or by calling 1800 20 10 13.

I need some advice on the best sort of equipment for digital TV. Where can I find out more?

The Digital Ready website has a lot of advice about how to switchover to digital TV, including information on set-top boxes, digital TV recorders, and the difference between standard definition (SD) and high definition (HD) equipment. You could also ask to speak to a Digital Advisor in local retail stores. They have completed training to be able to inform customers about the full range of options for getting ready for digital TV. You can find participating stores on the Digital Ready website or by calling the information line at 1800 20 10 13. Major retailers in this area are participating in the program.

What will happen to my DVD and VCR after the switchover to digital TV?

You can still use your DVD or VCR to play discs or recordings you have already made. If your DVD recorder has an integrated digital tuner, you will be able to record digital television to play back later. If not, you will need to connect a digital set-top box to the DVD recorder. If you want to use your VCR to continue recording programs from the TV, you may need to attach a set top box to the VCR as well as attach a set top box to the television. This will enable you to watch one program while recording another. If you only want to record the program you are currently watching, you will only need one set top box.