

## **What is Free to View Digital Television?**

Digital Television is an exciting new technology that changes the way that you can receive your free to air television channels.

With digital television, all of the great programming you now enjoy – sport, movies, news, drama and comedy – is available to you but in much better picture quality, with improved sound and superior reception to your existing analogue television service.

Read on to find out more about the facts and the benefits that free to view digital television offers you.

### **How does digital television offer me better picture quality?**

Television programs broadcast in digital provide a picture quality equal to that provided by DVD. Like DVD, digital television also allows broadcasters to provide programs in a widescreen (16:9) picture format, giving a larger and more natural viewing area. This base format of digital television broadcast is called “Standard Definition”.

Digital television also allows broadcasters to select programs in a very high quality picture format comparable to that shown in cinemas. This format is known as “High Definition,” and allows television broadcasters to deliver television programs in cinema quality right to your home.

Standard Definition and High Definition are sometimes abbreviated as “SD” or “SD-TV” and, “HD” or “HD-TV” respectively.

### **How does digital television offer me improved sound?**

Digital television delivers viewers CD-quality stereo sound as standard. Broadcasters may also choose to deliver Dolby Digital™ surround sound with programs such as movies, concerts or drama.

The sound quality of Dolby Digital™ when teamed with a High Definition television program offers viewers, the best possible television viewing experience available today.

### **How does digital television provide superior reception to my existing analogue television service?**

Digital television overcomes one of the basic issues with analogue television reception. Digital and analogue television signals both weaken as they travel away from the television transmitter. An analogue television picture slowly degrades with a weaker signal resulting in a fuzzy or ghosted picture. However, digital television will continue to show the same high quality picture regardless of distance up until the point where the signal can no longer be received.

### **What will digital television deliver in the future beyond my existing Free to View television programming?**

Over time, broadcasters will be able to offer more and more benefits to viewers of digital television including program guides, multi-view and interactive services.

Some broadcasters may offer services such as additional television or radio channels.

### **Why should I be interested in getting Digital Television?**

Digital television takes the best quality programming provided by the Free to Air broadcasters and extends it by providing:

- DVD-quality pictures

- CD-quality sound
- Clearer reception
- Widescreen pictures
- High Definition cinema quality pictures and sound

## **When can I get Digital Television?**

Free to View digital television is available to over 75% of Australian households right now. All metropolitan areas and an increasing number of regional centres around Australia have access to digital television broadcasts.

By the end of 2003, all metropolitan centres and 13 regional centres around Australia will have access to **all** of their existing Free to Air television channels in digital.

## **How can I find out whether or not I can receive digital television broadcasts?**

For more information on where Digital Television is available, Digital Broadcasting Australia ([www.dba.org.au](http://www.dba.org.au)) provides a guide to the availability of digital television around Australia.

## **What will happen to my existing analogue television?**

Your current television will continue to receive the existing Free to Air analogue television channels provided by broadcasters until at least 2008, when the government will review whether or not analogue broadcasts should be turned off and if so, when.

## **How do I get Free to View Digital Television?**

### **What are my options for gaining access to digital television?**

You can get digital television by purchasing a digital television set top box (sometimes also called a digital television adaptor) that connects in between your antenna and existing television.

Should you be looking at replacing or upgrading your existing television, you also have the option of purchasing an integrated digital television that connects directly to your television antenna.

### **What is a digital television set top box?**

A digital television set top box is simply a device that connects to your television antenna and converts digital television programming into a signal compatible with your existing analogue television or VCR. A set top box can also offer additional features such as a channel guide, the ability to receive High Definition broadcasts and Dolby Digital surround sound dependent upon the particular manufacturer's specification.

### **What is an integrated digital television?**

An integrated digital television is a standard television that also contains a digital tuner that allows the television to receive digital television broadcasts without any additional equipment. You connect the television to your antenna cable and you are ready to receive digital television programming. An integrated digital television, like a set top box, can also provide additional features.

### **Can I use my existing antenna to receive digital television?**

Yes. You should be able to receive digital television through your existing antenna provided it and your antenna wiring are in good condition.

### **What do I need to receive and watch High Definition television programming?**

To receive the best possible viewing experience delivered by high definition television programming, you will need either:

- a High Definition set top box coupled with a High Definition display device such as a television, monitor or projector, or;
- a High Definition integrated digital television.

You can receive high definition television programming by connecting a High Definition set top box to your existing television, however, this will only deliver a picture quality equal to the display capability of your existing television.

### **What does digital television cost?**

Once you purchase either a digital television set top box or integrated digital television there is nothing more to pay. Free to View Digital Television is exactly that, free to view with no contracts and no ongoing monthly fees.

A range of digital television set top boxes and integrated digital televisions is now available from your electrical retailers around Australia. For more information on digital television products and electrical retailers in your area who stock digital television product please visit the Digital Broadcasting Australia ([www.dba.org.au](http://www.dba.org.au)) website.

### **Where can I get more information on Digital Television?**

Further information in relation to digital television is available on this website and from the Digital Broadcasting Australia ([www.dba.org.au](http://www.dba.org.au)) website.