

Submission 13

To The Head of the Inquiry,

I have just read a report in the Western Weekender newspaper regarding this parliamentary inquiry into the delay in Australians taking up digital television.

Having followed the links on the website published in the article, I am hoping this is the appropriate avenue to voice my own view on the issue.

About 18 months ago I purchased a digital television from my local Harvey Norman store in Jamisontown. It is a standard definition television, and is not HD equipped, with the digital receiver built in. In other words, I didn't need to purchase a top box to go with it.

In Penrith, my analogue reception (and FM radio reception) has always been poor, with ghosting due to the signal 'bouncing' back off the Blue Mountains. This was one of the reasons I was attracted to the digital concept, as I was led to believe this ghosting would be a thing of the past.

Whilst the improvement in picture quality and the widescreen reception has been an undoubted attraction, the pixilation that occurs at certain times of the day has been far too much of a distraction for me to enjoy this purchase.

Initially I was told that I could receive this signal perfectly well using my existing external aerial. When the pixilation became unbearable, I had several antennae people come over to inspect my set up and was advised to purchase a purpose built digital aerial. I did so at a cost of \$700. There has been little or no improvement in the problems of pixilation.

The problem appears to be worst during major sporting events or at times when a lot of people are watching at the same time, which is naturally when it is most likely I want to watch myself. At other times it is fine. SBS seems unaffected, and most of the time the ABC is fine as well.

I have several friends who have made similar purchases only to have encountered the same problems, so it is little wonder, with word of mouth being such an influence, that take up has been slow. Why would you risk what in many cases, (certainly in ours), amounts to an investment of thousands of dollars, only to be so totally disappointed and frustrated with the results. I have no hesitation in saying the purchase of a digital television has been one of the most unsatisfactory purchases I have ever made for my household.

When digital mobile phones were first introduced, it took a long while before adequate coverage was implemented to prevent dropouts in even highly populated areas. Obviously, nothing has been learned from that experience.

*Regards
Brian Sanders*