

Dear sir/madam,

I note that your committee is enquiring into the slower than desired adoption of digital TV in Australia.

As one member of the TV audience, I would like to indicate my reasons for being reluctant to buy a 'set top box'.

1. No standard definition STB's are available from recognised electronics manufacturers. Therefore I do not trust that I will be able to obtain equipment that is reliable, adequately supported by service and warranty facilities, or durable.
2. The much touted increase in picture quality is a matter of indifference to me and my family. The quality on analogue sets is fine, given that TV is merely a diversion, not a productive tool that I am glued to for hours on end.
3. Content (which for TV is paramount) is little different from analogue offerings. To make me move to digital I would need all FTA channels to be vigorous multi casters, with services such as ABC2 available on all. I would like to see a number of ABC and SBS channels for current affairs (as per ABC2), documentaries, local experimental and small producer dramas, etc. Additional services, such as downloading reference material mentioned on programs, would also be attractive.

So, with the increase in screen detail pretty much irrelevant, my adoption of digital TV will require: name brand STBs on the market, ideally with built in HDDs and multicasting of watchable content (and not soap operas, dull sitcoms, and cheap and nasty 'reality' TV shows) by more than SBS and ABC.