



## *Discussion Forum*

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The comments and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Retirement Village Residents Association (RVRA) or its Members.

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### **Digital TV Distribution**

Posted: Friday, 21 August 2009 5:13 pm - By **Mike**

As we age more and more of us rely on our TV not only for entertainment but also for “companionship”.

Our old analog TV sets are failing and the analog transmissions will cease in three to four years. Free to air DTV is already available in many areas of NSW; apart from the specialised channels there is little reason to pay for FOXTEL.

Are you getting Digital now? If not is it because your distribution system is not up to scratch?

It is known that there are many older retirement villages that have sub-standard MATV distribution systems, where most of the cables and wall plates used within units do not meet the requirements of AS/NZS 1367:2007 [RG6 quad shielded cable with F-type connectors]. Provision of Digital TV is Government policy and reception is now a community expectation, nevertheless many operators are making little or no effort to upgrade village distribution systems.

There have been some who have bitten the bullet. Last year Brentwood at Kinkumber completely rewired their 500 odd units with a fibre optic trunk and RG6 Quad feeds, thus providing reception of all free to air channels and additionally to allowing for an “in-house” messaging system channel, an “in-house” movie channel and for SelecTV (similar to Foxtel but considerably cheaper). It was not cheap costing in the order of \$400,000.

In my village, Willandra, the operators have undertaken a partial upgrade which has produced a satisfactory outcome but without full coverage of all stations. The rewiring of the village still remains to be done. It will be an expensive undertaking.

Additionally we have the problem of refurbished units which a buyer could reasonably expect would have “all mod cons”. Will the TV outlets in such “as new” units meet the required standard? More importantly will the prospective buyer be informed if they do not.

Searching the web will produce much on the subject but one article “DIGITAL TV – Cutting

through the advice clutter”, available at:

[http://www.villages.com.au/files/digital\\_tv\\_source\\_issue1\\_lr.pdf](http://www.villages.com.au/files/digital_tv_source_issue1_lr.pdf)

is an excellent indicator of the problems and possible solutions needed.

I would be interested to hear from other village residents, not only those who have problems with DTV distribution, but also from those who have benefited from a fully upgraded system.

**Mike**

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**Re: Digital TV Distribution**

Posted: Saturday, 22 August 2009 9:44am - By **John Cooper**

I agree that the changeover to digital TV has and will present problems for a number of Retirement Villages, particularly the older villages.

At Queens Lake Village at Laurieton in early 2008 we had modifications made to the antenna and associated equipment at a cost of some \$11,000, this cost was shared equally between the Residents (from Recurrent Charges) and the Owner/Operator. The existing cable appears to be capable of handling the present digital signals, however, we are finding that the old wall plates/sockets need to be updated.

**John Cooper**

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**Re: Digital TV Distribution**

Posted: Wednesday, 26 August 2009 9:57am - By **Neil**

I see a possible answer to getting the various village owners to update from old to new (and meeting the new standards) is for ALL residents who are living in a village suffering poor TV/MATV communication to petition their owners, pointing out that it is in the village owner's own best interests to be able to offer competitive quality or their on-sales will suffer.

**Neil**

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**Re: Digital TV Distribution**

Posted: Saturday, 10 October 2009 5:15am - By **rod and mim**

Hello John C, could you advise please, who did the modifications etc. for Queens Lake Village?  
Thank you. Miriam.

**rod and mim**

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**Re: Digital TV Distribution**

Posted: Thursday, 15 October 2009 5:39pm - By **John Cooper**

The work was carried out by a local contractor.

**John Cooper**

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**Re: Digital TV Distribution**

**Posted:** Wednesday, 20 January 2010 2:45pm - By **kenpare**

We have recently had an complete upgrade to our digital TV reception, and the result is very good. I have a question on this matter. Would villages who have upgraded to digital let me know who paid for the work (I know about Laurieton) and those that do not have digital availability let me know whether there are any plans to upgrade and who will be paying . I would really appreciate as much input as possible. Thanks.

**kenpare**

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**Re: Digital TV Distribution - Oct 2010 UPDATE**

Posted: Saturday, 23 October 2010 9:42 pm - By Mike

During 2009 the Commonwealth Government Digital Switchover Taskforce undertook a study to identify possible problems that might be encountered during the current ongoing changes to TV transmissions. The results of this study have now been published on the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Digital Switchover Taskforce website that can be found at:

<http://www.digitalready.gov.au/index.aspx>

The site contains a wealth of information although it does take some time to find your way around. The section most likely to be of interest to residents and their committees is that dealing with MDUs . Buildings such as apartments and units (known as Multi-Dwelling Units or MDUs), groups of townhouses, retirement villages and public and commercial facilities often use a shared antenna system, also known as a Master Antenna TV (MATV). This section starts at:

<http://www.digitalready.gov.au/mdu/index.aspx>

I would recommend that any village that has less than perfect DIGITAL TV reception use the "Antenna Systems eToolkit" provided at:

<http://www.digitalready.gov.au/mdu/troubleshootingtool.aspx>

and work through the Retirement Village section. As an example, selecting 'Poor reception' followed by 'Cable Faults' and then checking the check box on the last line you will be able to examine the case study for "Unterminated ports and cables within shared antenna systems".

It may be hard going and much of the technical data is over my head but here you will find such gems as "All MATV systems should have proper port terminators, and ensuring that ports are properly terminated in new and existing installations is simple and inexpensive."

Visit the site - read on - and be prepared when you confront management to complain about less than satisfactory TV reception. Start the process now and you should have a perfect picture - free to air - in 2013. 😊

**Mike**

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