

New training resources developed for antenna installers

New technology training resources have been developed for antenna installers setting up digital television reception equipment.

The new training resources provide antenna installers with the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised qualification based on the latest developments in television reception technology. Households switching to digital television and using a trained antenna installer will benefit from the improved service standards.

The training materials have been developed by Integragom Management Group in consultations with industry, training organisations and the government's Digital Switchover Taskforce (DST), part of the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE). They will enhance industry standards for installing television antenna and distribution systems for terrestrial and satellite services.

TAFE and other registered training organisations will use the resources to deliver units of the Telecommunications Digital Reception Technology Certificate II and III packages.

These units set the framework for the training of installers in all relevant aspects of antenna installation practices and have a strong emphasis on occupational health and safety. The training also includes topics such as installing digital reception equipment, locating and identifying cable system faults, installing terrestrial and satellite antennas, and conducting radio frequency measurements.

The industry association driving the development of the training initiatives has been the Australian Digital Television Industry Association Inc. (ADTIA), a peak body aiming for industry best practice from both a technological and consumer point of view. ADTIA's creation was in part due to discussions within the DST working groups, where the need for a peak body was identified.

The development of the training material has been funded by DBCDE, which is responsible for helping the Australian community convert to digital television. The training resources are free—antenna installers interested in completing the training can contact their local education organisation or visit the industry section of the DST website at www.digitalready.gov.au.

The ACMA has been working closely with DBCDE on the switchover to digital television. The Manager of the ACMA's Consumer and Research section, Gary Smith, is a member of the DST working groups providing advice on regulatory principles associated with the digital switchover program.

Advice from the ACMA has been important in establishing the need for both ADTIA and an industry-developed training initiative. Non-regulatory solutions, such as industry training schemes that reduce risk by increasing the quality of installations and reducing the need for any regulatory intervention by the ACMA, are in line with the principles of good regulatory practice. 🗨️



Colin Green from Matchmaster TV Reception Systems, Dominic Schipano from ADTIA and the ACMA's Gary Smith at the launch of the antenna training resources.