

As outlined in the discussion paper, a great deal of the expense in providing multiple digital services is the combining of services whether it be in the multiplexing of signals prior to the transmitter or the combining onto a single antenna system.

**Why not combine at least 4 services onto a single digital ASI signal prior to it being up-linked to satellite.**

If this was satellite delivered to remote self help areas with the multiplexing prior to satellite uplink then the decoding and single transmitter at remote location is greatly simplified. If system consists of satellite decoder and small powered transmitter connected directly to single transmit antenna then maintenance or remote supply of spares is greatly simplified. Not a great deal of technical expertise required. Additional benefit is the use of a single frequency, no combiner, narrow band antennas, etc.

Existing viewer set top boxes would easily decode signal.

Downside to this is that single channel can only accommodate 4 standard definition channels and would not allow for multiple high definition channels.

In a large number of locations the ABC digital already exists and so self help would only need to include 3 commercial networks and possibly SBS.

John Becker  
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