



FACT SHEET: SATELLITE PHONE SUBSIDY SCHEME

The Satellite Phone Subsidy Scheme commenced in 2002 and is scheduled to cease on 30 June 2013.

Objective

For a large part of Australia's landmass, satellite phones are the only available form of mobile communications. However, satellite phones are generally more expensive than terrestrial mobile phones. The objective of the scheme is to improve the affordability of mobile communications for people living, working or travelling in areas without terrestrial mobile phone coverage by providing subsidies for the purchase of satellite phone handsets.

Eligibility

Individuals may apply for one subsidy. Small businesses, educational institutions and community groups may apply for two subsidies. Indigenous corporations, health and emergency service organisations may apply for more than two handset subsidies.

Two-tiered subsidy

The subsidy varies according to where you live and the cost of the phone you buy.

1. Live or work outside of mobile coverage area	2. Live in mobile coverage area, but work or travel outside mobile coverage area more than 180 days over a two-year period
85 per cent of the retail price of the phone, to a maximum of \$1000	50 per cent of the retail price of the phone, to a maximum of \$700

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Replacement handsets

Applicants who live in areas without terrestrial mobile coverage are eligible for additional subsidies to replace handsets purchased under the scheme three or more years earlier.

Dealers

The scheme is currently supported by over 400 registered dealers. These dealers are predominantly small businesses, located in regional towns, who sell mobile communication equipment such as mobile phones.

Further details

Guidelines and application forms are available at www.dbcde.gov.au/satphone.

For further information, please contact the scheme's administrators by telephone on 1800 674 058, or email satphone@dbcde.gov.au.