

**Senate Standing Committee on the  
Environment, Communications and the Arts**  
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**  
Budget Estimates Hearings 20 October 2008

**Outcome 1, Output 1.1**

**Question: 21**

**Topic:** Digital Switchover Taskforce

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Where and when is testing being conducted to ensure digital services can be properly received and distributed through high-rise apartment buildings?

Will this be subject to any independent review and, if so, what form will this take?

**Answer:**

The Digital reception in high-rise apartments was identified as an issue in digital switchover from the outset. That is why the Government allocated \$1 million to conduct independent research to identify solutions.

This research is currently underway and will identify barriers to digital television conversion in multi-dwelling units (e.g. high-rise buildings) and other buildings with shared antenna systems. The research will help to identify and develop a range of costed solutions to various analog to digital television conversion scenarios and assist those with responsibility for these buildings plan and prepare for switchover.

The tender for the research was awarded to Sydney-based company, Australian Digital Testing, following an open tender process. The research will involve the review of the master or communal television antenna (MATV/CATV) systems in 600 buildings in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and the Gold Coast.

As the research is being conducted independently of the Department there is no need for a separate review.