



## Australian Government

Department of Broadband,  
Communications and the Digital Economy

# Satellite Phone Subsidy Scheme Guidelines and Application Form

## About the Scheme

The Satellite Phone Subsidy Scheme (the Scheme) is an Australian Government initiative to make mobile communications more accessible and affordable for people living or working in areas beyond 3G or GSM terrestrial mobile coverage—including aviation and maritime users. The Scheme is administered by the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (the Department).

The Australian Government recognises that access to mobile communications is increasingly important in providing social and economic benefits. The Scheme is a significant part of an ongoing commitment to improving the accessibility of mobile services in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia.

If you are approved for a subsidy, you will be able to buy a satellite mobile phone from a registered dealer for the retail price less the amount of the subsidy. Approved applicants can receive up to 85 percent of the retail price of a satellite phone, to a maximum of \$1000 (including GST).

## INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO APPLY

**IMPORTANT: Do not buy your satellite mobile phone yet.** You must wait until your application has been approved and you have received the appropriate paperwork from the Department. A list of Terms and Definitions is on page 8.

### Step 1—Read the guidelines and conditions

You **must** read pages 1–3 of this form to work out whether you may be eligible to apply for the Scheme. You should also read the Subsidy Agreement on pages 8–9.

### Step 2—Identify a dealer

Shop around and find the phone, service provider and dealer that best suits your needs but **do not buy the phone yet.**

Determine whether the dealer is registered for the Scheme by asking the dealer or by contacting the Administrator. A subsidy will only be provided to an eligible person or organisation for a phone purchased from a registered dealer.

For information about phones and services, you can contact participating satellite mobile phone dealers. A list of dealers is available on the Department's website at [www.dbcde.gov.au/satphone](http://www.dbcde.gov.au/satphone) or by calling 1800 674 058.

### Step 3—Apply for the subsidy

Complete the attached *Application for Subsidy Form* (which includes the Subsidy Agreement). The subsidy may only be paid if you correctly complete and sign the form, agreeing to abide by the specified terms and conditions.

For help with your application contact the Scheme's Administrator on:

Phone: **1800 674 058** (free call from a fixed phone)  
Fax: **(02) 6271 1078**  
Email: [satphone@dbcde.gov.au](mailto:satphone@dbcde.gov.au)  
Or visit: [www.dbcde.gov.au/satphone](http://www.dbcde.gov.au/satphone)

### Step 4—Post your application

Post your completed application to:

The Administrator  
Satellite Phone Subsidy Scheme  
Department of Broadband, Communications and  
the Digital Economy  
GPO Box 2154  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

**Note:** Signed applications may be faxed, or scanned and emailed but the original of the application must also be posted.

## What happens then?

You will usually receive notification of the outcome of your application within 10 to 15 business days of the Scheme's Administrator receiving an application containing all the relevant information. We may need more information from you before a final decision is made and it is your responsibility to provide sufficient information in support of your application if requested.

If your application is rejected you will be notified in writing and provided with reasons for the decision.

### If your application is approved:

- You will be sent a letter, an *Approved Purchaser Form* and a copy of the Subsidy Agreement duly executed by the Department. The dealer you selected will be notified at the same time.
- You will be notified whether you are entitled to the higher level of subsidy or the lower level of subsidy (as explained in the 'Guidelines for Purchasers' on pages 2 and 3 of this form). The exact amount of the subsidy will be calculated by the dealer, in accordance with the Guidelines for Dealers.
- You must purchase your phone on or before the expiry date stated on the *Approved Purchaser Form*.

## GUIDELINES FOR PURCHASERS

### What does the subsidy cover?

The subsidy is for the purchase of a satellite phone that is either:

- handheld or
- non-handheld and used in a mobile environment, such as phones that are installed and used in a vehicle or vessel.

Importantly, the subsidy is not available for phones that are fixed to a homestead, building or other immobile structure. The subsidy also does not cover any ongoing bills, charges or the ongoing service of the service provider.

### Who is eligible for a subsidy?

You must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident, or be a registered organisation in Australia. You must live, work, or operate a business in an area not served by a current terrestrial mobile phone service. This includes Australia's air space, external territories and Exclusive Economic Zone.

You must be one of the following:

- a private individual
- a community group (non government funded)
- a not-for-profit organisation with less than 20 full-time equivalent employees—including casual and part-time (non government funded)
- an Indigenous corporation
- a small business
- an emergency service organisation
- a health organisation, or
- an educational institution

and you must either:

- live (have your principal place of residence) or run a business (have your principal operating address) or
- spend a substantial amount of time (no less than 180 calendar days in the two years following the date the phone was purchased)

in an area of Australia where terrestrial mobile phone coverage is not available.

Eligible applicants can apply for a subsidy for a replacement handset if you:

- live or are based in an area without terrestrial mobile phone coverage, and
- purchased a phone under the Scheme three or more years earlier, which is no longer in your possession or is not in a condition to provide adequate services.

Please refer to page 8 under Terms and Definitions for guidance.

### Who is not eligible for a subsidy?

You will not be eligible for the subsidy if:

- the phone is to be used solely or principally outside of Australia
- the phone is to be used as a demonstration, loan or rental satellite phone or for other similar purposes as part of satellite phone sales, marketing or client service strategies or
- you have received any other type of government-funded subsidy (apart from a tax rebate) for a satellite mobile phone.

## What level of subsidy is available?

If your application is successful, the amount of the subsidy that will be paid depends on your principal address and the price of the phone you purchase.

1. A subsidy of up to 85 percent of the retail price of the phone, to a maximum of \$1000 (including GST) is available if you live or operate a business in an area of Australia without terrestrial mobile phone coverage. You will need to provide proof of address to receive this level of subsidy.
2. A subsidy of up to 50 percent of the retail price of the phone, to a maximum of \$700 (including GST) is available if you live or operate a business in an area that has terrestrial mobile phone coverage, but spend a substantial amount of time in an area of Australia without coverage (i.e. no less than 180 calendar days in the two years following the date the phone was purchased).

The Guidelines for Dealers specify how the subsidy is calculated. Once calculated by the dealer, this amount will be passed on to you in the form of a reduced price paid for the phone at the time you purchase the phone. The dealer will then seek reimbursement of this amount from the Department.

## How many subsidies can be applied for?

- Individuals may only apply for one subsidy per person.
- Businesses and other organisations may apply for a maximum of two subsidies per business or group, with the exception of Indigenous corporations, Health organisations and Emergency services organisations.
- Indigenous corporations, Health organisations and Emergency services organisations that demonstrate a need to service a number of remote communities or locations may apply for more than two subsidies. The granting of additional subsidies is at the discretion of the Department, and cannot be guaranteed.
- Eligible applicants who purchased a phone under the Scheme three or more years earlier, which is no longer in your possession or in a condition to provide adequate services may apply for a subsidy for a replacement handset.

## When can the phone be purchased?

If your application for a subsidy is approved, you will be sent an *Approved Purchaser Form* and a signed copy of the Subsidy Agreement. You must not purchase the phone before you receive the *Approved Purchaser Form* and you must purchase the phone on or before the expiry date on the *Approved Purchaser Form*.

You will have two months from the date on the *Approved Purchaser Form* to buy your phone. No subsidy will be provided for a phone purchased after the expiry date. You may seek an extension of time from the Department prior to the expiry date, an extension may not necessarily be granted, and is at the discretion of the Department. If an extension is granted, a new *Approved Purchaser Form* will be issued to you.

## Does the phone need to be purchased from a particular dealer?

You must buy the phone from a dealer registered under the Scheme. A dealer may apply for registration (by submitting an Application for Registration) at the same time as you submit an application that nominates that dealer.

If your application is approved, you must buy your phone from the dealer specified on the *Approved Purchaser Form* provided to you by the Administrator. The only exception is where a change of dealer has been approved by the Administrator.

## NOTE

The Australian Government reserves the right to vary these Guidelines in accordance with changes to government policy. The Department will publish details of any significant changes to these Guidelines on the Scheme's website at [www.dbcde.gov.au/satphone](http://www.dbcde.gov.au/satphone)

Please ensure you apply on the current version of the Satellite Phone Subsidy Scheme application form which is available from [www.dbcde.gov.au/satphone](http://www.dbcde.gov.au/satphone)

## WARNING

It is an offence for a person to make false or misleading statements or to give false or misleading information (sections 136.1 and 137.1 of the Commonwealth *Criminal Code Act 1995*). Serious penalties, including imprisonment, apply in relation to these offences.

## PRIVACY

The information provided by an applicant in this *Application for Subsidy* form is primarily collected by the Department for the purposes of allowing the Department to assess the applicant's eligibility for a subsidy under the Scheme. Personal information provided to the Department may be used by the Department and/or disclosed to third parties for the purposes of program administration, evaluation or policy development, or otherwise as required by law.

## CHECKLISTS

When you have completed your form, please complete the appropriate checklist below before sending your application.

### Checklist for individuals

Before sending this application, ensure that you have:

- Completed Parts A, B, D, E, F and G. Do not complete Parts C and H.
- If you ticked 21(a) in Part D, attached documents to establish proof of your address
- Signed the Subsidy Agreement at Part G in the presence of a witness
- Removed pages 1–4 of this form to keep for your reference.

### Checklist for businesses/organisations

Before sending this application, ensure that you have:

- Completed Parts A, C, D, E, F and H. Do not complete Parts B and G.
- If you ticked 21(a) in Part D, attached documents to establish proof of the principal operating address of the business/organisation
- Signed the Subsidy Agreement at Part H in the presence of a witness
- Removed pages 1–4 of this form to keep for your reference.

Please keep these information pages for your reference

**This page is intentionally blank**





**PART D – Details of the remote area and time spent there**

This information will be used to determine eligibility and the level of subsidy that may apply, based on coverage and time spent in areas without coverage.

21 Do you (please tick one box only: a or b):

- (a)  • live without mobile phone coverage, or  
 • operate a business/organisation with headquarters in a location without mobile phone coverage?

*If you ticked (a), you must attach certified proof of your street address (for individuals) or the principal operating address (for the business/organisation)\*.*

**OR**

- (b)  • spend (as an individual or a business/organisation) a significant amount of time in areas without mobile phone coverage

22 Only complete question 22 if you ticked 21(b)

What is the total number of days you will spend in the area where there is no mobile coverage during the two years following purchase of the phone  days

Name the areas where you spend a substantial amount of time

Please name specific locations identifiable on standard maps e.g. the community, station name, national park, mine site, well-known roads, deserts, fishing zone or port.

*If you need more space, attach a sheet giving the required details*


\* **Proof of address for applicants who ticked 21(a) above** — Documents to establish proof of address must include the name of the applicant and current address and must be certified by a Justice of the Peace, bank manager, postal worker, teacher of five years, doctor or your dealer as a true and accurate copy of the original. Any of the following documents may be used:

- licences or permits issued under Commonwealth, state or territory law, such as a driver's licence
- current student cards issued by a tertiary educational institution, or
- fixed network telephone bills or local council rates statements issued in the last 12 months.

The proof of address information will be used by the Department for the purpose of verifying the principal place of residence for applicants who are individuals or the principal operating address for applicants who are a business or organisation.

**PART E – Dealer's details**

23 Name of dealer

Dealer's registration number (if known)

Branch/town

Contact name

Postal address  
  
  
 Postcode

Business phone (STD 08 )

Mobile phone

Fax (STD 08 )

Email

**PART F – Declaration**

24 By signing below, You declare that:

- You have read, understood, and agree to comply with, the Guidelines for Purchasers and the Instructions on How to Apply applicable to the Scheme
- You have read, understood, and agree to comply with, the Subsidy Agreement
- You understand that You must not purchase the Phone unless and until You are notified that Your Application for a Subsidy has been approved by Us and You have been sent an *Approved Purchaser Form*, and
- to the best of Your knowledge, the information provided in the Application is complete and correct in all respects.

Signature

Full name

Position

Date

▶▶ If you are applying as:

- an **individual**, complete the Subsidy Agreement at PART G.
- a **business or organisation** – complete the Subsidy Agreement at PART H.

## TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this form:

**Administrator** means Our officers who have the appropriate authority to make decisions and carry out tasks in relation to the Scheme.

**Application** means Your application for one or more Subsidies under the Scheme.

**Approved Purchaser Form** means the form We provide to You, in accordance with the Guidelines and the Instructions.

**Dealer** means a seller of Phones, that is registered under the Scheme and is specified in the *Approved Purchaser Form*.

**Department** means the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy or any Department responsible for the administration of the Scheme.

**Educational institution** means an institution providing primary, secondary or tertiary education.

**Emergency services** means a non-Government organisation which provides emergency services as its primary activity, and which has less than 20 employees. 'Emergency services' are activities undertaken for the immediate protection and preservation of life and property from harm resulting from incidents and emergencies.

**Expiry date** means the date specified on the *Approved Purchaser Form* as the last day on which You may purchase the Phone.

**Guidelines** means the 'Guidelines for Purchasers' applicable to the Scheme.

**Health organisation** means a non-Government organisation which has health services as its primary activity, and which has less than 20 employees. 'Health services' includes any activity that involves:

- assessing, recording, maintaining or improving a person's health; or
- diagnosing or treating a person's illness or disability; or
- dispensing a prescription drug or medicinal preparation by a pharmacist.

**Indigenous corporation** means an Indigenous community council constituted or established under state or territory legislation, or an Indigenous incorporated association recognised as a 'local governing body' by the Australian or Northern Territory governments.

**Instructions** means the 'Instructions on How to Apply' applicable to the Scheme.

**Party** means a party to this agreement.

**Phone** means a satellite phone that is either handheld or non-handheld and used in a mobile environment.

**Plan** means the agreement between You and the Service Provider in relation to the Phone carriage service.

**Principal operating address** means the physical street address where the main activity of the business or organisation takes place.

**Principal place of residence** means the physical street address where You live on a permanent basis.

**Replacement handset** means a handset intended to replace a phone that was purchased under the Scheme three or more years earlier, which is no longer in your possession or is not in a condition to provide adequate services (e.g. damaged, lost, stolen etc.)

**Retail price** means the net amount a customer would pay for the Phone in the absence of the Subsidy, which will generally be the recommended retail price of the Phone less any promotional discount or rebate.

**Scheme** means the extended Satellite Phone Subsidy Scheme 2009-13 administered by Us, commencing 5 March 2009.

**Service provider** means the provider of the Phone carriage service.

**Small business** means a business with less than 20 full-time equivalent employees, including casual, part-time and contract workers.

**Subsidy** means the amount to be paid by Us to the Dealer to subsidise the purchase price of the Phone, calculated in accordance with the 'Guidelines for Dealers' applicable to the Scheme.

**Terrestrial mobile phone coverage** includes areas where coverage is possible with a handheld mobile phone.

**Us, We, Our** (as the case requires) means the COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, represented by and acting through the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (the Department) ABN: 51 491 646 726.

**You, Your** (as the case requires) means the individual/ business or other organisation.

## SUBSIDY AGREEMENT

### 1. Term of the Agreement

- 1.1 The Term of the Agreement commences on the date on which the Agreement is signed by Us and, unless terminated earlier, it expires two years after the expiry date.
- 1.2 You acknowledge and accept that no legally binding contract is entered into between the parties unless and until We approve the Application and We execute the Agreement.

### 2. Subsidy conditions

- 2.1 You agree that You have made Your own inquiries and You have selected the phone, plan, dealer and service provider that best suits Your needs.
- 2.2 We do not accept any liability for Your choice of phone, plan, dealer or service provider.
- 2.3 You agree to maintain a connection for the phone for the Term of the Agreement.
- 2.4 You acknowledge that We:
  - (a) are not liable for any ongoing bills or charges in relation to the use of the phone, and
  - (b) are not liable for any failure by a service provider to provide, or continue to provide, You with a service.
- 2.5 You agree to produce the phone purchased under this Scheme if requested by Us within 10 business days.
- 2.6 You agree to provide any information in connection with Your Application or phone purchase under the Scheme, as requested by Us within 10 business days.
- 2.7 You agree to pay to the dealer the difference between the retail price and the Subsidy, as well as other costs associated with the purchase and operation of the phone (including any plan), and You acknowledge that the dealer who supplies the phone will be reimbursed by Us for the Subsidy.
- 2.8 You agree that You are not entitled to the Subsidy if the phone was purchased, supplied or connected either:
  - (a) prior to our approval of the Application, or
  - (b) after the expiry date.
- 2.9 You agree to comply with the requirements set out in the Guidelines and Instructions.
- 2.10 If You applied for more than one Subsidy, You agree that the Agreement applies to each individual Subsidy approved by Us.

### 3. Repayment of subsidy

- 3.1 You must notify the Administrator immediately of:
  - (a) any change in Your circumstances that would render You ineligible to receive a Subsidy under the Guidelines
  - (b) You selling or otherwise disposing of the phone or
  - (c) You failing to comply with the terms of the Agreement.
- 3.2 Upon receipt of the notice given under clause 3.1, or if We otherwise become aware of any of the circumstances listed at clause 3.1 applying to You, We may require You by written notice to repay the Subsidy to Us within 30 calendar days.
- 3.3 If We are satisfied that any statement made in Your Application was incorrect, false or misleading in a way which would have affected the original decision to approve Your Application, We may require You by written notice to repay the Subsidy to Us within 30 calendar days.

### 4. Disclosure of information

- 4.1 You acknowledge that We may be required to disclose information in relation to Your Application and phone purchase under the Scheme, as required by the operation of any law, judicial or parliamentary body or governmental agency.
- 4.2 No information contained in the Application or Agreement will be treated as confidential.
- 4.3 We may prepare an evaluation report in relation to the Scheme. This report may include information You (and other third parties, as applicable) have provided to Us in relation to the Scheme, and You agree that We may publish a copy of this report.

### 5. Privacy

- 5.1 You acknowledge that We are required to comply with the Information Privacy Principles (IPPs) in the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (the Privacy Act).
- 5.2 You acknowledge that the information provided in the Application is provided for the purpose of allowing Us to assess Your eligibility for a Subsidy under the Scheme.
- 5.3 You agree that the service provider may provide details about Your phone account to Us.
- 5.4 You agree that information:
  - (a) about Your phone account or plan and/or
  - (b) contained in Your Applicationmay be provided by Us to other entities for the purposes of administration or evaluation of the Scheme or policy development, or otherwise as required by law.
- 5.5 You acknowledge that the dealer and the service provider may be bound by the National Privacy Principles (NPPs) in the Privacy Act and You consent to the dealer and the service provider, whether or not bound by the NPPs, providing personal information about You to Us at our request.
- 5.6 You agree that We may provide a copy of the Agreement to the dealer and the service provider.

### 6. Charges, taxes and duties

- 6.1 You agree to establish and maintain a phone plan (either pre-paid, monthly or fixed-term) in Your name for the phone with a service provider, and to take responsibility for all ongoing charges and costs associated with the use of the phone, for the Term of the Agreement.
- 6.2 You agree to pay for the phone and all ongoing charges and costs associated with the use of the phone from Your own funds.
- 6.3 All taxes, duties and government charges, if any, imposed or levied in Australia or overseas in connection with the Agreement must be borne by You.

### 7. Entire Agreement and variation

- 7.1 You acknowledge that the Agreement contains the entire agreement between You and Us in relation to the Scheme, and that it takes precedence over the Application and any other prior correspondence between the parties in relation to the Scheme.
- 7.2 The Agreement may only be varied by the written agreement of the parties.

### 8. Assignment and novation

- 8.1 You must not assign Your rights under the Agreement without prior written approval from Us.
- 8.2 You must consult with Us prior to entering into negotiations with any other person in respect of a proposed novation of the Agreement.

### 9. Applicable law and survivorship

- 9.1 The laws of the Australian Capital Territory apply to the Agreement.
- 9.2 The operation of clauses 4, 5 and 6 survive the expiration or earlier termination of the Term of the Agreement.

**PART G – SUBSIDY AGREEMENT for individuals**

▶▶ **IMPORTANT: Only complete this Subsidy Agreement if You are applying as an INDIVIDUAL.** If You are applying on behalf of a business or organisation, You need to complete the Subsidy Agreement at PART H.

- You must complete this Agreement before submitting Your application. The Department will countersign this page if Your subsidy is approved.
- You must sign this Agreement in the presence of a witness.

**Signed, sealed and delivered** by the individual ('You' or 'Your' as the case requires):

Your full name

Your signature

Date

**In the presence of:**

Full name of Your witness

Signature of Your witness

**AND**

**Signed, sealed and delivered** for and on behalf of the **COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**, represented by and acting through the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (the Department) ABN: 51 491 646 726 ('Us', 'We' or 'Our' as the case requires) by:

Full name of the Department officer

Signature of the Department officer

Date

**In the presence of:**

Full name of the Department witness

Signature of the Department witness

**Approved purchaser number** (to be completed by the Department only if the application is approved)

## PART H – SUBSIDY AGREEMENT for a business or organisation

▶ **IMPORTANT: Only complete this Subsidy Agreement if You are applying as a BUSINESS or ORGANISATION,** including trustees acting on behalf of trust beneficiaries.

- This Subsidy Agreement must be completed before submitting this application. The Department will countersign this page if Your subsidy is approved.
- This Subsidy Agreement must be executed in the name of the relevant legal entity (e.g. this must be the full registered name consistent with the ASIC and/or ABR registers, not a trading name. Refer to [www.abr.gov.au](http://www.abr.gov.au) and [www.asic.gov.au](http://www.asic.gov.au)).
- This Agreement must be signed in the presence of a witness.
- A trustee must execute this agreement on behalf of a trust.

**Signed, sealed and delivered** for and on behalf of the business or organisation ('You' or 'Your' as the case requires) by:

Your full name

Your signature

Date

Your position (i.e. Director, Trustee, Partner)

Full name of additional signatory (if applicable)

Signature of additional signatory

Position of additional signatory (i.e. Director, Trustee, Partner)

**Who, by signing warrant that they have the authority to bind:**

Full name of business or organisation

  
  

ABN (if applicable)

**In the presence of:**

Full name of Your witness

Signature of Your witness

Occupation of Your witness (i.e. Director, Trustee, Partner)

**AND**

**Signed, sealed and delivered** for and on behalf of the **COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**, represented by and acting through the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (the Department) ABN: 51 491 646 726 ('Us', 'We' or 'Our' as the case requires) by:

Full name of the Department officer

Signature of the Department officer

Date

**In the presence of:**

Full name of the Department witness

Signature of the Department witness

**Approved purchaser number** (to be completed by the Department only if the application is approved)

Common Seal of business/organisation (if applicable)