

Inquiry into the role and potential of the National Broadband Network

Submission addressing sections h) facilitating community and social benefits and b) achieving health outcomes.

Today many people are expecting a convergence of separate information inputs and outputs. An example of this is a mobile phone which can take pictures and videos which can be sent to people, make telephone calls, browse the internet, play music, receive “tv” and send and receive emails.

My expectation of the National Broadband Network is that all of these functions and more will be possible. Specifically I imagine that in a notional household in the early evening the parents might be catching up on the news, streamed on line in 3d at full HD resolution, their first child a secondary school student would be using the net to put together a multimedia school home work assignment while their other child is using the net for a video telephone call possibly to an overseas relative but more realistically to a group of their mates. In the background the electricity supply company will have turned off the hot water heater while the electric cooker and oven are switched on. Later that evening the young child of their friends who are visiting starts to have increasing difficulty breathing. They contact the local ambulance and have a video call to which an emergency department physician is brought in to help assess. In the meantime their usual family doctor in a different state is contacted and able to remotely transfer critical information about the patient who is well known with a rare but serious condition.

The National Broadband Network needs to have sufficient capacity that this can be possible for everyone in a local community to be doing this concurrently without the images breaking up and the voices getting clipped. It needs to anticipate what will be the expectations and needs for watching tv and movies in 20 years time. The system needs to be robust enough to withstand flooding and loss of power. It also needs to be easily fixed when it breaks down.

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