

Submission on the National Broadband Network
30 March 2008

While there is a focus on technology delivery at the exchange (ADSL, ADSL 2+ etc...), there are a few other relevant issues:

1. Often the technology is not available due to a finite number of ports. There probably needs to be a number of "reserved" connections for those involved with e-health provision
2. Although there is much discussion about exchange upgrades, there is little focus on "line upgrade" from exchange to terminal. One issue for example concerns people who have been placed on a RIM exchange, which essentially means copper line sharing. This was done by Telstra to enable rapid connection of fixed line services to areas of rapid growth. Faster broadband such as ADSL 2+ will not work over such a setup and they are not interested in upgrading these services. This appears to be a problem in some areas of WA. The other states may also have this issue. Bottom line is that there also needs to be a focus on infrastructure upgrade because super fast exchanges are only as good as the links to terminals that want to access this technology.
3. Cost is also relevant issue because users will be less inclined to take up the technology if there were no means to reclaim the associated costs. Furthermore, what will the costs be for newer technologies? It may place it out of the reach of small providers if no assistance were available.

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