**URSYS - Working with the Thuraya Satsleeve**

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The basic plan is $15 per month, plus calls, SMS and data. There is no contract obligation for this plan, meaning you can opt in and out as required. The hardware is a purchase-only item, at $888 including GST.

Calls from your mobile can be easily routed to the Satsleeve, as it has an Australian number. If you have an Optus phone, these forwarded calls are free of charge to you, and the caller is simply calling your mobile, so is handled as per any other mobile call. If you have a non-Optus phone, the forwarded call will cost as per your carrier’s calling plan, but is not significant, certainly not the “bad old days” of satellite call rates.

Outbound calls, SMS and data over satellite are billed to you Satsleeve account, at the standard Satsleeve rates. Satellite data is not intended for general usage, and is not fast or cheap, but is very handy in emergency situations.

The Satsleeve pairs with your smartphone using Wifi, and uses an app installed on your phone, as the user interface, so you have full familiarity with the “front end”. Your phone can operate in the built-in cradle, or within WiFi range of the SatSleeve. The Satsleeve requires a clear view of the sky, but other than that can operate pretty well anywhere in Australia (and the rest of the world, but with roaming charges). It can be matched with an external vehicle antenna, so that the Satsleeve itself can be mounted to your vehicle, or stored in a glovebox, with WiFi connectivity maintained with your phone.

There are a number of other useful safety features with the SatSleeve, which can be lifesavers. The phone app can be set up to SMS the user’s GPS-tracked position at specified intervals, allowing users to be tracked when in remote areas. The SatSleeve also has an emergency button, that can be programmed to call a specified number, usually emergency services. The Satsleeve can be used in stand-alone mode for this, as it has integrated speaker and microphone.

In my case, travelling often to remote areas for work, and recreationally as a 4X4 and dirt-bike enthusiast, the Satsleeve provides a great deal of reassurance, knowing that wherever I am, help is only a call away. When I go trail-riding with my youngest son, I drop the SatSleeve in his backpack. This means that if I am disabled, he can call assistance. If I lose track of him, I can locate him using the SMS locations. This reassurance makes for a much more relaxing and enjoyable adventure!

URSYS provides SatSleeves to customers, as a stand-alone solution, or as part of a wider managed remote area communications service offering. This includes VSAT satellite data services, private LTE (4G) networks, M2M/SCADA (Internet of Things) and a wide range of other communications services. URSYS has been providing remote area communications services for more than two decades, to some of Australia’s most remote areas and environments.