

Below is correspondence that was sent to offices of Peter Garrett, Penny Wong and Greg Combet. I have not as yet received a reply from anyone. I was the manager of an insulation business on the Sunshine Coast. It was a highly reputable business and never had any issues with audits or electrical safety offices. Since I wrote this letter I too have lost my job as the result of their being insufficient work. This has obviously created a lot of hardship not just for me but for the many thousands of workers in the same boat. The assistance package for displaced insulation workers through centrelink is all but useless for workers who have partners who are working and are over the cut-off thresholds. This seems to be regardless of whether you have mortgage payments to make or not.

To add insult to injury the recent bungling of the insulation scheme has resulted in me having to lay off considerable staff (all good people who do an excellent job) at the whim of the DEWHA. I would note that our company has been audited several times and has never had a single problem.

On a positive note I read the announcement from Peter Garrett that the Home Sustainability Assessor scheme would be expanded. As we have staff who have paid for training and submitted applications to become assessors I was relieved that they would be able to quickly pick up work in this field. Unfortunately not only will they lose their jobs as a result of the closure of the energy efficient homes scheme but (after a brief glimmer of hope) have been told again that their applications will not be processed. As late as today (23rd of Feb 2010) one of them was asked for payment by ABSA to enter the scheme. I was informed that their applications were processed in order. I know this not to be the case as mine was received by their office 2 weeks earlier and has not yet been processed.

It would seem that the programs that come out of DEWHA are doomed by poor management from the outset.

It seems extremely unfair that staff who have now lost their jobs under the energy efficient homes scheme continue to have their time, money and hopes of securing employment in the short term dashed once again by the now bungled home sustainability assessment scheme

Copy of correspondence sent to ABSA on 28th of Jan is below:

It is unfortunate that you did not put a cap on the training providers that your office has on record as they have obviously knowingly put as many individuals through as possible in an attempt to maximise their profits. I know of training providers that were simply sending a DVD recording of previous courses and training and assessment materials for candidates to complete and send back to become registered. Unfortunately the cost to individuals has been much greater. Despite the cost of training \$1400, lost wages (4 days) \$800 - \$1600, Insurance \$750 - \$1600, travel and accommodation to attend courses \$400-\$1200, purchase of laptop \$700-\$1500, passport photos etc.. In a worst case

scenario an individual can be out of pocket over \$7000 to be told that by the time they are registered there may not be any work left. I have spoken to one individual (who has retired and has had significant superannuation losses over the last 2 years) who is devastated that he is out of pocket to such a degree with little likelihood of recovering his investment through doing assessments under the scheme. Had the quoted timeline of 21 days (now blown out to at least 50 days) to be registered been adhered to he would have some hope of booking in assessments to recover his costs. It is obviously an unacceptable situation.

I would suggest that ABSA take all of the current applications from assessors and reserve on the system 30 assessments for them so that they can at least recover their training and set up costs. This should hopefully alleviate the problems that have already arisen. Please keep me informed regarding the status of this submission. I can be contacted on the supplied details for any further information.