

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I completed my Assessor training with Peter Gilliard, (Home Sustainability Assessment Pty Ltd ACN 1369279). Which I understood as being an accredited organisation through ABSA, in Mid December 2009. I found the Course that I completed very informative and was extremely keen to start as a Home Sustainability Assessor. I had 60 people (all of which were acquaintances) to have their homes assessed. Several of these people have recently received power bills of over \$1,000, and would like to be given some advice on how to be energy efficient, they were also keen to take up a Green Loan to improve their homes.

As at 29th March 2010, I have not completed one single assessment. My HO number was approved through ABSA on the 18th February, just before Peter Garratt, announced the scraping of the Green Loans Scheme, and the culling of Assessors, and his department was not accepting any more contracts. This was extremely dissapointing, as I had just the day before paid ABSA \$660.00, and I am also still paying for my Personal Indemnity Insurance, which in total will cost me \$740.00, so far I have paid out nearly \$3,000.00

I am a stay at home mother with 3 children, and my husband and I are on a single income, so this was a lot of money for us to outlay with no return as yet. As I have 3 children all at school age, I was only looking at profiting from this scheme on a part time basis.

I am very passionate about the environment, and would very much like to see the Green Loans scheme re-introduced. I feel that the Assessors like myself that have not yet been contracted, should be given a fair go. These are some of the ideas I have:

- Keep the number of Assessments at 5 per week, so all new assessors can make back their money they have outlaid.
- Every Assessor that already has a contract or is awaiting a contract should treated in the same fashion when considering the new Contracts.
- Any Assessor that is currently contracted and is not actually active, be taken from the programme to make way for new Assessors, who genuinely wish to work.
- Re-introduce the Green Loans Programme, to enable low income families to make good environmental changes to their homes.

I am writing this submission in favour of all the new Assessors who are in the same boat as me. We do really feel like we are being left in Limbo, and would like some very clear answers ASAP, so that we can get on with our Careers.

Yours Sincerely
Rachele Whelan