

31st March 2010

Submission to Minister Wong

My personal experience has been that I attended an intensive training course run by Cool Planet and completed the course on the 6th December 2009. I paid \$1425.00 for the course, \$700.00 for the insurance, \$12.95 for the photo ID's, \$52.00 for the police check and registration to ABSA for \$660.00 (not yet taken out).

My understanding was that the Green Loans Program funding would probably run out in June 2010. However I read a few newspaper articles and talked to a few real estate agents, and I believed that the government wanted to implement that all properties for sale had to have an assessment done. I thought that there would be more initiatives put in place and possibly more funding. With this knowledge I still thought that being an assessor was a viable opportunity for me. I wanted to be an assessor and have my accreditation. My eldest son thought it was a great opportunity a career with a future, so did my wife.

My application was sent in promptly on December the 21st 2009 (I had to wait for my police check to be sent). I received confirmation on the 4th February 2010 that my package was to be sent out within 2 working weeks. I had to post off a contract which was mailed by registered post on the 8th February 2010. I am still waiting. The constant checking of the post box to see if my package has arrived is a nightmare. Ringing and emailing the department with no straight forward answers, if and when I actually was able to speak to someone another frustrating occurrence. My children asking "when are you starting your job, why is it taking so long, can't someone help you?" My wife and I worrying about our future, about the money we have outlaid and nothing is happening. I am constantly thinking what's happening with the scheme, when will I hear some answer's, will I be able to become an assessor after all that I have done? Why is this all happening? I was confident that this being a government initiative that it would be run efficiently but it wasn't. It plays on your mind constantly and my wife and myself have not been sleeping well because of that.

Now everything is up in the air. With too many assessors trained I face the possibility of not even becoming an assessor. The amount of time and money I have spent and to find out this, it really is gut wrenching. I feel strongly about the environment and I wanted to help people make a positive change and show them how they could reduce their energy needs. I really felt good about myself doing the course and proud of the fact that I had this qualification. My future was looking bright. Now it is like a huge chunk has been taken away from me. To have so much uncertainty is unbelievable. This is my life that is being played with, my future. The future of my family as well. This

is not what I thought would happen. Who is going to make the decision of who stays and who goes?
How fair is this decision going to be?

As I have not been sent my accreditation I cannot assess any homes. I cannot comment on the efficiency or the software or the department's response time with assessments.

There are however measures that I feel would be useful. Firstly, if there are too many assessors look at the unemployed people. Look at the low income families first, give these families priority. If there are too many assessors in an area, they could be allocated an area where there are no assessors or very few.

The assessment to be a full tax deduction by householders.

All homes listed for sale compulsory assessment.

Limit of how many assessments per month.

Anyone wishing to install a solar hot water system, water tank and or solar panels to have an assessment first.

Thankyou for taking the time to read this submission.

Yours faithfully,

John Skelly