

25/05/2010

Chris Hutton submission Green Loans Program

Hi

My Name is Chris Hutton. I am a registered but uncontracted Green Loans Home Sustainability Assessor.

My submission is how much longer will the uncontracted assessors have to wait before a decision will be made about the remaining contracts. Uncontracted assessors have been waiting a long time. We finished our course s no later than December and had to have our contracts into the Association of Building Sustainability Assessors (ABSA) by the end of January. I resigned my Full Time Job in February 2010 expecting to work on this program.

The Former Minister Peter Garrett made an announcement on capping the assessor numbers to 5000 on the 19th of February 2010. I believe that about 10 000 Assessors have been trained for the Green Loans Program. So that leaves at least 5600 Assessors still uncontracted and waiting for a decision about the remaining 600 contracts.

A decision about the remaining contracts and remaining assessors should be made as soon as possible. The possibility of a contract with this program is holding people back from possible job opportunities and further career development. The Minister Penny Wong made commitments to fix the program when she took over the Scheme from the previous Minister Garrett. I am not a Project manager but the issue of 5600 Uncontracted Assessors waiting for news and action should be a priority. How could they keep people with an uncertain future for so long.

The retrospective decision by the previous Minister Peter Garrett to cap assessor numbers to 5000 has caught many people including the managing body ABSA . This decision has caused me family distress, financial hardship, loss of job security, anxiety and anger. The lack of any commitment and communication from DEWHA / DCCEE about the plight of the Uncontracted assessor is astounding and unfair. I decided to do this scheme to do something good for Australia and my community. This scheme has

brought a lot of misery and anxiety to many people.

Another related issue I would like to address is the specified personnel loophole.

Stephen Gallaghers Post on the ABSA forum says “The only exception to this has been to add 'specified personnel', where assessor organisations had notified the Department of those personnel prior to 25 March 2010 - the date on which assessors were notified of a variation to the organisation contract for provision of assessor services to prevent organisations adding personnel without formal written agreement by the Department.

As a result of having added 300 or so of these 'specified personnel', we believe that there are currently around 4,400 assessors contracted to provide assessor services under the Program”.

Appendix 1

Who is pulling the strings of the Green Loan Program?

We have ABSA who Contracts assessors.

We Have the Government who issues contracts

And now we have Companies who make their own rules about who gets contracts and who doesn't at the expense of sole trading uncontracted assessors.

is this fair?

Considering Peter Garrett's retrospective decision on Feb 19th about capping assessors to 5000 and then subsequent decisions to suspend contracts indefinitely. Why have the Government given certain companies a free kick? This is totally unfair, unjust, unthinkable, miserable and stupid. Talk about getting the rough end of the pineapple. We have all paid \$\$\$\$ for the chance of being a home sustainability assessor. What happened to the fair go!!!

Kind Regards

Chris Hutton

Registered but still uncontracted.