

To                      Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

From  
Name                      Takeshi Umezu

- Your personal experience as an assessor and the sacrifices you made to do this

My journey to become an assessor has been a long one. I have always had a passion for reducing energy consumption in my own living and to encourage others to do the same. I come from Japan, where the society is enthusiastic to recycle and reduce energy consumption around the home. I came to Australia in 2002 and wished to pursue a career in the renewable energy industry, however, due to my lack of English and financial situation, I was unable to. I worked several odd jobs before starting my own cleaning business, with its flexible hours, it allowed me to have time to study and pursue my passions.

Through hard work and determination, I have completed the following courses, leading me to become a Home Sustainability Assessor.

1. I completed Home sustainability assessment course at Holmesglen TAFE in December 2008
2. I completed Home Sustainability assessment course (for Green Loan) at Archicentre in October 2009
3. I completed Certificate IV Renewable Energy Technology at Chisholm TAFE in December 2009
4. I completed Building Thermal Performance at Chisholm TAFE in March 2010

I have sacrificed much time and money to become an assessor and was looking forward to working in this industry. I have made many sacrifices, spending much time away from my young family while I study and complete my courses. Together with the language barrier and the financial sacrifices I have had to make, I believe it has been a tough journey for me to get to where I am today, however I am willing to bypass my own personal sacrifices to remain positive and know that I can and will make a difference to the environment by continuing to pursue a career in this important industry.

As a requirement to be a registered assessor, I have had to take out insurance, which is very costly. This insurance policy is sitting there, however, I have not been able to make use of it yet.

Since I finished the above courses, I've helped family and friends to reduce energy consumption and their water bill. I changed shower heads for my house and relatives' house. I also installed a 1kW PV system.

- How the changes to the scheme have impacted on you, your family and business.

As I have worked so hard to complete my courses, making family and financial sacrifices to become an assessor, I feel extremely upset to not be given a chance to work in this field of my passion. My young family have been so supportive and have been so looking forward to my new role. I have given up many new business opportunities in my cleaning business to concentrate on the completion of my courses to eventually have a new career in renewable energy industry. Therefore my family and I are waiting with great anticipation to be given a contract with the government to become an assessor. This contract will mean so much for me, as a security for my family and also to be given an opportunity to do work which I am so passionate about.

- Measures which could be put in place to revitalise the scheme.

The ones currently suggested by the government seem sufficient at this stage.

- Any other useful suggestions and potential solutions.

One body / organisation to be in charge of the scheme, where as in the past courses were conducted by different institutes, then ABSA was in charge of registrations and Government was in charge of contracting. I felt this system was too confusing and no one could really answer any questions directly.

Best Regards

Takeshi Umezu