

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and Arts

Dear Sir/Madam

I guess there is not a lot that is new in my story and probably it has already been said. I do however feel very disappointed personally and professionally at my lost opportunity to make a difference to people generally and to this planet by helping to facilitate change through the Home Sustainability Assessments. I was very excited when the opportunity arose to retrain as a Home Sustainability Assessor towards the end of last year. I believed that after the training I could contract to the government as an assessor for the Green Loans Program. As I enrolled I was told that I was in one of the last groups to be trained as the Government wanted to limit the number of Assessors for the program. I was relieved that I had got in! I completed the training, gained accreditation through ABSA but was not accepted as an approved assessor for the now defunct Green Loans Program as no more assessors were being contracted by the Government. If I had known that I would not have been able to work as a contractor assessing for the program, I wouldn't have done the training - not without some other career path being available.

In hind-site, the trainer was not that enthusiastic about the training or the Green Loans Program and I feel now that perhaps he had knowledge I didn't regarding the general state of the disarray of the program(Green Loans) and of the possibility that there wouldn't be work for any of us doing the training at that time. I feel that I have been taken advantage of by the training company and the government has not adequately kept track of the whole program and the industry that has sprung up around it.

I underwent the training because I could see that my current work was about to finish. I borrowed \$3500 to get set-up to do the work (training +insurance +ABSA membership and computer hardware) only to find that I have no avenue for work. I am currently doing anything to support my wife and family. I also have a debt now that I am having trouble paying!

I really wanted to make a career in this area and I support the work by ABSA and its members in trying to grow this very important new industry.

Ian Johnson