

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2010
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Topic: Home Insulation Program – Electrical Issues

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Question: (Senator Birmingham)

Senator BIRMINGHAM—Obviously giving as broad a cross-reference as possible in terms of that risk is useful. I would have thought if 3,700 audits are being undertaken—dependent upon how many installers there are, but I would be doubtful there were more than 3,700 in Queensland—it would be sensible to structure it in a manner so that all were audited at least once. The random nature would then kick in as to just how many times they might be audited and where they might be audited.

Mr Forbes—We will come back on the details. One would assume that if it is well designed it would cover off those issues.

Answer:

The sample methodology for the Queensland foil electrical safety inspections under the Home Insulation Program (HIP) was random. The audit was not designed to cover all foil installers in Queensland given that there was a commitment to allow for adjusting upwards following analysis of results.

After reviewing the results of the initial Queensland foil electrical safety inspections, Minister Garrett announced on 10 February 2010 that every home that had foil insulation installed under the HIP will undergo an electrical safety inspection. In addition, on 1 April 2010, Minister Combet announced that all homes that had foil insulation installed under the HIP will have the option of having the foil insulation removed, or alternatively, on the advice of a licensed electrician, having safety switches installed.