

The changes to the rebate programme have been disastrous to say the least. Almost every potential customer who had sought a quote and then asked for their home to be measured and evaluated for a grid-connected PV solar system has now been excluded from the rebate. These people now find their combined incomes placed them just above the threshold. As a result, many have expressed their regret at no longer being able to purchase a system.

Making the rebate available only to those earning less than \$100,000 per year is pointless. We do not purchase PV systems. A tradesman such as myself married to a teachers aid cannot afford one with or without the rebate. The systems are, at the present anyway, only within the means of the middle class. Two school teachers in their mid-40's could afford a system last year. They did it by paying a little less toward their mortgage and foregoing a holiday for two years. A PV solar system, however, is now beyond their means.

Increased mortgage pressures and rising fuel prices make it more difficult than ever for a couple earning \$100,000 to consider buying a solar system, or indeed to make any pro-active environmental purchases no matter how much they would like to do so. To paraphrase the American millionaire J. P. Morgan "A hundred thousand bucks ain't what it used to be". Obviously the Rudd government already realises that a family earning \$100,000 is not a wealthy one, or they would not have changed the Medicare payment income threshold to \$150,000.

Thank you for emailing to ask for my input. It is gratifying to have the opportunity to relate my personal experience and to put forth my opinion directly to a member of parliament.

Thank you for your time and interest.

Sincerely,
Gary Thomas