

20th July 2008

Dear Senate Members,

I am from the “older’ generation. I have been advocating solar collectors and solar energy for the past twenty five years and more.

Without assistance from Governments, people will not be able to afford this massive change we have to make in our society. Our area in Queensland is relatively poor and most people will not be able to afford solar grid connections even though they earn less than \$100,000 pa. But people, like nurses, who live in Brisbane and surrounds MUST earn more than the \$100K to even purchase a house! What chance have they or my neighbours got to help ease our dependence on carbon fuels.

Four months ago, I started a course at SkillsTech to gain acceptance for getting the Government rebate of \$8000 on 1kW solar installations. At 63 years of age, I don’t need the money, BUT if I can reduce the cost of installation to my neighbours, I feel it is my duty and the duty of this Government to help.

Please do not agree to this means testing. I am willing to appear at any Senate enquiry to put the case of promoting renewable energy in Australia. Germany is counting on you to ignore my reasoning in that they will continue to build their industry on this Government’s negative attitude

Your sincerely
Malcolm Ridyard