

25 March 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
PO Box 6100,
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

I am writing this submission in to the Senate Enquiry regarding the Green Loans Program.

First and foremost, I am not a member of ABSA and am therefore not an accredited Home Sustainability Assessor.

I am however, a fully qualified Home Sustainability Assessor having trained for 5 days with EcoMaster in Victoria in June and July 2009.

Since undertaking that training I went to great lengths to secure funding to cover the cost of the training as I am a single parent on a very limited income. There were a number of reasons for me wanting to become a Home Sustainability Assessor, namely:

1. I have a strong interest and employment background in sustainability issues;
2. The work commitment of the program suited my employment needs;
3. It was a role I felt very confident in and knew that I could undertake without any problems;
4. I had envisaged and planned to turn this employment into a small consultancy business beyond the Green Loans Program; and
5. Finally, it would provide me with an income that would allow me to become less dependant on the Parenting Payment Income.

A local charity was finally able to give me the training money to pay for my outstanding fees and therefore proceed with accreditation. They also provided me with money to pay for the accreditation. This was undertaken on the understanding that I would pay back this money by allocating some of the payment I would receive through each assessment.

I had undertaken a Police Check and was about to apply for insurance when I was informed by the insurance company that ABSA had closed applications for

accreditation . I had been in contact with ABSA in December 2009 to enquire as to when the final acceptance date was and informed that it was the **end** of January 2010. The call to ABSA following the information from the insurance company was on 25th January, alerting them to the fact that my application was on its way. They confirmed that they had ceased accepting applications for accreditation from 22nd January. I was however, invited to still send in my application but there were 4,200 applications before it still to be processed.

The advice I received from EcoMaster was that due to the fact that the number of assessments taken up had been quite substantial and that there were far more assessors accredited than originally stated, the amount of assessments left would not allow me to recoup my costs. Therefore, do not submit your application. I must admit that at the time I was devastated to say the least. The career path I had chosen that would not only give me an enormous amount of job satisfaction but also financial security for my son and I had been taken away from me.

I am still at a loss as to what to do. I have outstanding money to pay to a charity with no income to do so, I have undertaken training with no way of putting it into practice and I am still unemployed with little income.

At the very least, I would like to have my training money refunded so that I can at least pay back the charity and that money can go to someone who can put it to good use. Or on the other hand, I would like some reassurance that my training and passion and enthusiasm can be put to good use either with the Green Loans Program or the soon to be released Green Start Program.

I may only be one of thousands that have been affected by the problems that have beset the Green Loans Program, but these problems have impacted in an enormous way. The Green Loans Program essentially is a very good program with great intention in empowering individuals to lessen their greenhouse gases and to save money on their energy and water bills. It is unfortunate that administrative problems have tainted the whole program.

I would appreciate a reply to this submission and would welcome any request to submit further information relevant to this submission.