

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

Topic: Home Sustainability Assessments – Accredited Assessors

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Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010

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Question: (Senator Birmingham)

1. How many Assessor Accrediting Organisations are recognised by the Government for the purposes of accrediting Home Sustainability Assessors?
2. Please outline the process for an organisation to be recognised as an Assessor Accrediting Organisation.
3. What total financial costs, to an assessor applicant, are involved to become eligible an accredited assessor, including any police checks, insurance cover, application and other fees?
4. Have any of these fees been met by any Government agency i.e. the Commonwealth?
5. Since the program's inception how many applications have been received from individuals seeking to become accredited assessors?
6. How many applications for accreditation have been unsuccessful? Please provide examples of why applicants have been unsuccessful.
7. What procedures are available to any assessor applicants that fail the accreditation process? Do they have to pay the various costs/application fees if they wish to seek accreditation again?

Answer:

1. There is only one Assessor Accrediting Organisation, the Association of Building Sustainability Assessors (ABSA), recognised by the Australian Government for the purposes of accrediting Home Sustainability Assessors.
2. The process for becoming an Assessor Accrediting Organisation is on the Green Loans Web site at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/greenloans/assessors/accrediting-orgs.html>.

3. Total financial costs to an assessor applicant involved in the accreditation process are:

Costs	
Insurance	\$900 to 1,200
ABSA membership	\$220
Accreditation	\$660
Scheme Fees	\$440
Training Course	\$1,200 to 1,500
Police Check	\$43
Total	\$3,463 to 4,063

4. No fees have been met by any Government agency.
5. As of 7 March 2010, 7,511 applications have been received from individuals seeking to become accredited assessors.
6. One thousand four hundred eighty eight applications for accreditation have not been fully processed and accredited. Of those 58 have been rejected by the ABSA screening panel for a criminal record deemed inappropriate for accreditation. These people are rejected with notification, but invited to send further supporting information about the offence, character references or court documents for re-submission to the screening panel. Examples of offences that led to rejection included violent crimes and fraud. The remainder have incomplete applications or payment defaults. Examples of incomplete applications would be: any or all documentation not signed by a JP or equivalent; names on certificate not matching applicant; photos missing.
7. Those that have failed the accreditation process are invited to submit supporting evidence or replacement paperwork to allow their application to be re-evaluated. ABSA membership and accreditation fee is only charged if an applicant has been successful in the accreditation process.