

2010 Senate Inquiry Home Insulation Program – 17 Feb, 2010

Oral evidence - HANSARD

*selected quotes - R.Aynsley PhD, B.Tikey (AFIA), D.Darcy & R.Thompson (ICANZ)

Dr Aynsley —I have been an academic for most of my life, and I am a director of research and development for a US company that recently started up in Australia. **I still serve on standards committees, both in Australia and in the United States**, and I have also been **heavily involved with building regulations and research in New Zealand when I was Dean of Architecture at the University of Auckland. I have served on the board of BRANZ there**, so I am well aware of all this. I have **served on the home insulation technical committees of Standards Australia since 1975**, so I have a fair background in what has happened in this country.

There needs to be a serious review of that standard. One of the problems is that there have been a number of studies that have shown that **the R-values** that are being quoted around here today from the testing that is **outlined in that standard do not represent the R-value that is achieved in the roof**

Dr Aynsley —The thing is, the standard which I was involved in writing calls for a whole lot of testing. The situation at the moment is that there is **not a certified laboratory in Australia that can do a lot of that testing. CSIRO used to be able to do the testing long ago. It cannot do it anymore.**

Dr Aynsley —Yes, definitely, because the basic thing that you are **trying to offset is solar gain into the buildings and it is by radiation. Really, none of the bulk insulations are completely effective against radiation.** It will heat them up and they will have some effect, but **radiant barrier is definitely the most effective way of dealing with radiation**

Senator BARNETT —But you **are saying that Standards Australia is ineffective.** You do not support the current arrangements; you think there should be a review. Are you saying that the current arrangements are inadequate?

Dr Aynsley —**Yes.**

Mr Tikey —My name is Brian Tikey and I am the current president of the Aluminium Foil Insulation Association, a position that I have held for the last six years. By way of **background, I have had some 36 years in the housing construction industry** and with that I think that I do carry a portion of **understanding of some of the issues that are at hand in some depth in regard to the housing insulation scheme and the overall insulation industry.**

Mr Tikey —you have in-house fighting all of the time on the technical aspects. **In my opinion, standards for the insulation industry need to go out of house from Standards Australia to a more technical expert organisation**

Mr D'Arcy —By way of introduction, **ICANZ represents** the two major and oldest insulation manufacturers—**Bradford Insulation and Fletchers Insulation**

I am the CEO of the association and not a direct employee of either company.

The industry is highly competitive, as I am sure you have gathered by the submissions so far today. Unfortunately, **in Australia we do not have an independent body** such as the BBA in Britain or the CSTB in France or BRANZ in New Zealand **to investigate and rule on product claims in the building industry, so the industry is constantly embattled with misleading claims, legal action and scientific challenge.**

ICANZ disagree with many of the claims being submitted to the honourable senators today by our competitors. **We do agree, however, that a proper, independent, building research facility is needed in future to investigate claims independently and to give some direction on where we go.**

CHAIR —**Mr D'Arcy, I note that you are reading from a prepared statement.** Do you wish to summarise the balance of it and table the document?

Senator McEWEN —Earlier we **heard evidence that the kind of insulation material that your members provide is not suitable for tropical areas.** I just wondered whether you could address that issue completely.

Mr Thompson —We disagree with that. **Bulk insulation is suitable for all climate zones.** That has been the case always and is accepted worldwide. We actually manufacture the vast bulk of the foil products made in Australia. **Foil is a good additive in combination. Yes, it helps with additional radiation,**

It is quite a complex bit of science to work that out, and everyone has their different views. As we said before, it is a pity in Australia. **We would really like to encourage a BRANZ equivalent in Australia.**
