



Filenote telephone call from Sarah Streeter to Tanya Hobbs, ACCC 12 August 2013 at 3:36-3:48pm

Matter name: Homeworker Code Committee Incorporated - Revocation & Substitution - A91354 - A91357

ACCC parties: Tanya Hobbs (TH)

Other parties: Sarah Streeter (SS),

TRACKIT No: 50762, File No. C2013/142

SS asked to make a public submission in relation to the Homeworker Code Committee's application for authorisation of the Homeworkers' Code of Practice (the Code).

SS owns a small business called Urban Earth Wear which sells an organic underwear range which is marketed as a sustainable product, sustainably made. SS designs the products and outsources the manufacture of the products to another business. Both SS and the business she outsources to are accredited. SS also uses fabric suppliers (who is not required to be accredited under the Code) who are certified under a globally recognized organic certification (the Global Organic Textiles standard). SS considers that the two certifications are complementary as the organic standard covers the employees who grow and make the cotton while the ECA accreditation covers the employees which manufacture the clothing.

SS said that in her experience:

- the staff at Ethical Clothing Australia provided a lot of information online and via email. The steps to gain accreditation were quite clear and she just sent in the forms. Then, if she was unsure of something she just asked an ECA accreditation advisor.
- ECA staff were very helpful with the work she needed to do to get signed up and find a manufacturer to outsource to.
- the records she needs to keep in order to outsource are quite straightforward to fill out, it largely means making up a sample and writing a specifications sheet. ECA helped her to make sure she did it correctly.
- the accreditation fees are reasonable at \$300 + GST. Although, if it was more expensive she would have thought twice as she is a very small business. However, the fee was worth it because the public knows the logo if they are into ethical fashion or organic type products.
- the auditing by the TCFUA involved them sending a letter out and then meeting once.
- she had to fill in two sheets about her supplier and send the forms to the TCFUA and to the Fair Work Commission. Every quarter she has to do the same thing, under the Fair Work Act.

TH asked SS if she had considered WRAP certification or one of the other international certifications for the manufacturing in Australia.

SS did not consider that WRAP certification was equivalent as it does not cover a whole supply chain and involved an international company doing checks. Also, SS considered that a lot of work

Drafted by Tanya Hobbs 23 August 2013, approved for the Public Register by Sarah Streeter 23 August 2013.

had been done to build up the ECA brand amongst customers with a particular interest in sustainable and ethical products and that there would be nothing to replace it.

TH thanked SS for her submission.