

# Message from the Director-General



The Department of Employment and Industrial Relations through the Electrical Safety Office (ESO) plays an important role in improving electrical safety in both workplaces and homes.

As Queensland's electrical safety regulator, the ESO undertakes a range of activities to support electrical safety, with the key objective to reduce the rate of electrical fatalities in Queensland.

The functions of the ESO range from the provision of advice to the Minister and statutory bodies including the Electrical Safety Board and its three committees; to the development of legislation and standards; and the management of the registration, licensing and approval regimes established under the Act. The ESO also develops and implements education and awareness activities to assist industry and the community and undertakes compliance and enforcement activities through a State-wide inspectorate.

The Department is committed to working closely with the Electrical Safety Board to achieve its goal of eliminating all preventable electrical deaths in Queensland.

Over the past five years there has been a high level of cooperation, not only between the Department and the Board, but also with employers, unions and other stakeholders. This collective effort towards improving electrical safety has been pivotal in making significant progress and it is this approach that is also reflected in the Electrical Safety Plan for Queensland 2009-2014.

Together we have identified three priority areas needing attention, and developed strategies to address these.

**Powerlines** — especially where people either work too close to them or accidentally come into contact with them.

**Electrical installations** — concerned mainly with fixed wiring and electrical accessories in workplaces and homes, electrical and non-electrical work practices and unlicensed electrical work. Additionally, options for expanding the coverage of safety switches will be explored to improve the safety of electrical installations.

**Electrical equipment** — in particular electrical appliances, flexible cords, cord extension sets and other electrical equipment not associated with an electrical installation or powerlines. Another key focus is the design stage of electrical equipment, in an effort to influence safety improvements.

This new plan is significant in establishing the future electrical safety strategic direction by setting out positive strategies and objectives aimed at improving electrical safety in Queensland workplaces and in Queensland homes over the next five years.

With the assistance and commitment of the ESO and all stakeholders, the strategies identified will have a positive effect on the lives of workers, their families and the community.

We will regularly revisit this document, to ensure our efforts remain focused on keeping tomorrow's Queensland electrically safe.

**Peter Henneken**

Director-General

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