

## A word from the CEO

### NECA - Your voice in the industry

We didn't expect much for the electrotechnology industry in the 2018/19 Federal Budget announced in May, although we optimistically submitted NECA's Pre-Budget Submission back in December last year. It wasn't a surprise then, that there weren't any big ticket items for the electrotechnology sector in the budget.

There was some good news though. The prioritisation of major infrastructure projects, including the Melbourne airport rail link, the widening of the M1 between Brisbane and the Gold Coast and the upgrade of road and rail in WA, will ensure continued opportunities for growth and employment for the sector. Similarly, in South Australia and Western Australia the creation of a \$3.8bn Defence Export Facility opens up a range of opportunities for electrical contractors.

It's essential that the procurement and commencement conditions for all of these projects require a significant involvement of apprentices. Working on these major projects will provide valuable

experience and opportunities and, we hope, encourage more young people to take up a trade apprenticeship.

Other good news included plans to reduce company tax to 25% by 2026/27 and an extension of the \$20,000 Instant Asset Write-off program. Although we believe \$20,000 is too low and should be at least twice that amount.

It was really disappointing that there wasn't any additional funding or initiatives to support Vocational Education and Training (VET). The number of students taking up trade apprenticeships continues to drop with the latest annual NCVER figures showing a drop of 5.6% from September 2016 to September 2017.

A shortage of apprentices translates into a shortage of quality employees and we believe it's something that needs to be addressed urgently. NECA is looking at innovative ways to encourage more people into electrotechnology apprenticeships and to support them during their apprenticeship so they achieve a successful completion.



**Suresh Manickam**  
CEO, National Electrical  
and Communications Association

## Reliable and fair payments

As a finishing trade, electrical contractors are often the last in line to receive payment for work completed when a construction firm runs into financial difficulties and in the case of receivership, may not receive payment at all.

NECA has long been calling for measures to protect sub-contractors from the risk of non-payment, late payments and unfair contract terms which prevent payment.

We also met with John Murray who was conducting a review of Security of Payment

Law, providing him with a detailed submission which advocated the position of our members and outlined our recommendations.

The findings of the review presented in the Review of Security of Payment Law – Building Trust and Harmony frequently references NECA and includes several of our recommendations in the over 80 recommendations it makes including:

- A single approach to claims, not the two-tier approach currently in use in Queensland
- Prohibiting pay-when-paid clauses in construction contracts
- A period of 10 days for the default payment period
- Making it an offence to use coercive or threatening conduct to discourage claims.

NECA is now encouraging all state and territory governments to move quickly to adopt the recommendations and introduce a consistent approach across Australia which protects individuals and small businesses.

## Skills update

Around 200 Tasmanian electrical contractors registered to attend the latest Continuous Professional Development (CPD) program delivered by NECA in partnership with Master Plumbers Association of Tasmania (MPAT).

Australian Building & Construction Commission senior investigator Richard Ikin talked about contractors' obligations under The Building Code 2016 including prohibited and allowable activity and what The Building Code means for Enterprise Agreements.

Vicki Tabor from Worksafe Tasmania discussed the changes to worker's compensation that were made in January this year.

And Angela Bennet MPAT looked at ways contractors can reduce the HR, IR and WHS risks to their business.

In order to renew their contractor's licence, Tasmanian electricians must earn 12 CPD points annually. NECA was appointed by the Tasmanian Government to deliver CPD training this year and has delivered several successful CPD sessions.

NECA has long supported CPD as a way for electrical contractors to increase their skills, keeping up with legislative and safety changes and ensuring the electrotechnology sector has a highly trained workforce.

While Tasmania is the only state or territory that currently has mandatory CPD, NECA is working with the other state and territory governments advocating that they adopt a similar program.



## Jobs for electricians!

NECA has just launched a brand new job search site just for electricians – electricianXchange which will make it easier for you to find jobs across the electrotechnology sector.

You can find a job, post a job, hire in temp labour and hire out temp labour – so if you're an electrician looking for a job, or a contractor or company looking for an electrician, this is the place to start.

It's free to register and once you've registered you can search for and post jobs, as well as getting access to a range of useful tools.

There's a simple to use resume builder tailored specifically to electricians, and a Labour Exchange module which highlights opportunities for cross-training with other electrical contractors during less busy times.

At this stage, electricianxchange is only available in Victoria, but if it's successful we'll definitely include other states to replace initiatives such as the weekly Labour Exchange update from NECA NSW.

Check it out at [www.electricianxchange.com](http://www.electricianxchange.com) if there's anything else you'd like to see on the site, drop us an email at [info@electricianxchange.com](mailto:info@electricianxchange.com)



# ELECTRICIANS CONNECTING WITH ELECTRICIANS

**electricianXchange**  
Australia's leading jobs and labour exchange site for electricians

## ACRS MASTER CABLER

# More than just cabling registration

With the best value registration and the most comprehensive range of services, the Australian Cabler Registration Service (ACRS) makes sure you're properly trained and certified to carry out cabling work in Australia, and able to sign off on a compliance certificate TCA1 form.

### Did you know?

Installation of any equipment that will be connected to the telecommunications network may only be performed by a technician with a current cabling registration. This includes cabling for monitored security alarms, access control systems, closed circuit TV, extra phone lines, internet connected computers, building automation and smart home systems.

Most new properties these days have some, if not all of this equipment as standard, and owners of older properties want more and more equipment installed.

If you're considering undertaking cabling work, you must have the relevant qualifications and the appropriate competencies – and be registered with an accredited Cabling Registrar to perform the work legally.

There are significant penalties if you don't meet these criteria. It's just not worth the risk to operate unregistered.

### National Broadband Network

Registration can open up more job opportunities as the nbn rolls out across Australia. Only registered cablers can perform in-home cabling work for a home or business owner connecting to the nbn access network. All cabling work must adhere to nbn standards and in accordance with Australian Standards AS/CA S009 2013.

### We give you peace of mind

ACRS is run by the industry for the industry – we were set up, and continue to be wholly owned by NECA and we're formally accredited by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).

Our industry connections mean we're across all the issues you're facing and can lobby the Communications Minister, ACMA and the NBN in an effort to improve the industry and have your concerns addressed by the relevant authorities.

We also produce a quarterly newsletter and provide industry invitations so cablers can keep up-to-date in a rapidly changing environment.

### It's easy to get registered

If you're a qualified electrician and have completed your telco subjects as part of your apprenticeship – including the ACMA 50 mandated questions based on the wiring rules – contact us and we'll help you through the registration process.

If you hold an electrical licence but haven't yet completed the relevant ACMA pathway training, please contact your closest NECA training centre who will help you select the right course for your needs.

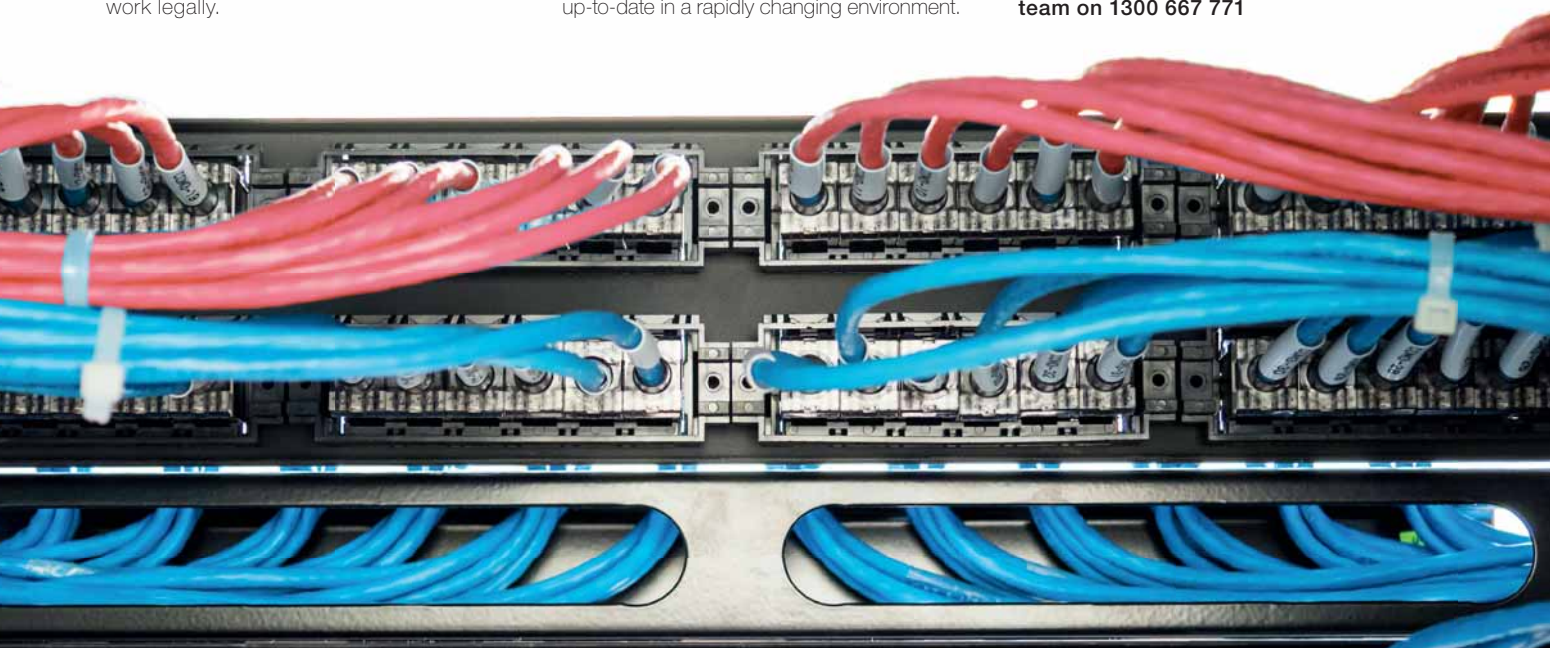
**NECA Training NSW**  
**02 9188 4424**

**NECA Education & Careers VIC**  
**03 9381 1922**

**NECA CET Joondalup WA**  
**08 9233 5000**

**NECA CET Jandakot WA**  
**08 6595 6600**

**For more information, including a full list of Registered Training Organisations, visit the ACRS website ([acrs.com.au](http://acrs.com.au)) or call the friendly ACRS team on 1300 667 771**



# Cabling Registration run by the industry, for the industry

**The Australian Cabler Registration Service (ACRS) provides a fast, reliable and low-cost registration service for the electrical and communications industry.**

Peace of mind costs less than 60c a week! Register with ACRS and reap the benefits of being with the only Australian electrical specialist registry while avoiding a hefty fine.

It is illegal for anyone other than a registered cabler to install or maintain cabling that connects to the telecommunications network. So if you are installing any equipment that will connect to the network – from smart home systems to extra phone lines – you need a current cabling registration.

Carrying a current cabling registration card confirms you have completed the relevant training and gained the professional experience to complete the work to the customer's expectations.

## Why choose ACRS?

- Fast, reliable personalised advice and service from our expert staff
- Quarterly updates providing the latest cabling news, industry issues and training information
- Comprehensive website [www.acrs.com.au](http://www.acrs.com.au) with directory of training organisations and Cabler Quick Search
- Range of registration and renewal options – online, in person, email, mail or fax
- Wholly owned subsidiary of NECA – the peak industry body for electrical contractors
- Licensed by Australian Communications & Media Authority.

	1 year	3 years
<b>ACRS Cabler Registration Service</b>	<b>\$ 35.00</b>	<b>\$ 88.00</b>
ASIAL	N/A	\$ 91.00
BICSI Registered Cablers Australia	\$ 38.50	\$ 88.00
FPA Australia	N/A	\$ 87.50
TITAB	\$ 42.00	\$ 94.00

### Register with ACRS now

Call the ACRS Cabler Registration service centre on **1300 667 771** or visit our website

**[www.acrs.com.au](http://www.acrs.com.au)**

Owned and operated by the National Electrical and Communication Association

