

## A word from the CEO

Over the past two months, NECA has held its state and territory awards events.

NECA Victoria kicked off this year's season with NECA NSW rounding off the state Excellence Awards.

The quality and innovation of all of this year's entrants has again been exceptional and it's encouraging to see that entrants build year-on-year not only their own capabilities but those of the industry.

If you've attended one of the State Awards, you will have noticed that this year's theme is focused on apprenticeships as well as female participation. In line with this theme, the nation-wide quality of our apprentices is something that our industry and NECA providers should be very proud of. While skills shortages remain a very real concern for our industry, we can take comfort from the fact that our current crop of apprentices are shaping up to be the next generation of leaders. It's also encouraging to see more female apprentices emerge – and they are giving the men a run for their money.

What's clear is that the judges for the National Awards will have a tough time deciding on the winners in each of the categories for NECA's prestigious National Excellence and Apprentice Awards.

We're excited to be holding the National Awards in Sydney at the brilliant, new Sydney International Convention Centre on Thursday, 23 November and we look forward to seeing you there. Bookings for this event are now open and can be found on NECA's website.



### 2018 Policy Statement

We've now commenced work on a refreshed and updated NECA Policy Statement for 2018. Our new statement will continue to build upon our second iteration in 2016 and include new and amended policy positions in the renewable energy space, Continuing Professional Development (CPD), building industry reforms and payroll tax concessions.

NECA's policy positions are critical for our industry as it signals to our stakeholders what members consider being important issues for both themselves and the broader industry. To date we've had a number of wins with respect of the positions we advocate for, including payroll tax concessions, apprenticeship pilot programs, the return of the ABCC, the introduction of the Registered Organisations Act, the introduction of unfair contract provisions and a focus on Security of Payment provisions to name a few.

The 2018 policy statement is expected to be ratified by NECA's National Council at its November meeting in Sydney and we look forward to sharing further details with you in the new year. In the meantime, I welcome your feedback on relevant policy additions that could be added.

### Tradies National Health Month

Throughout August, Tradies National Health Month (TNHM) played a vital role in helping to highlight and educate employers and employees about the benefits of a safe and healthy trade workplace environment. As Australian industry continues to have some of the largest health and safety concerns across the world, campaigns such as the TNHM are critical to reducing lost work hours to injury, personal and mental health.

While we have seen some improvements in terms of safe and healthy workplaces, more can be done. Australia's industry continues to have among the highest health and safety issues of any sector and information campaigns such as this one, assist in improving our workplaces.

NECA is proud to have worked collaboratively on this initiative with the Australian Physiotherapists Association and I'd encourage you to visit NECA's website to find out more.

Best regards,  
Suresh Manickham

## Asbestos Awareness

NECA has come together with the Australian Government's Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency to produce an asbestos awareness information leaflet for electricians.

The dangers of asbestos contact and use have been acknowledged across the globe with many health organisations around the world warning of its serious health implications. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that about 107 workers worldwide die every year due to asbestos-

related diseases. Electricians can be exposed to asbestos in many areas, from power stations to cabling repairs in a street pit or a conduit to a suburban home.

While asbestos has long been banned in Australia, experts warn of the possibility that it could still be found in many older structures and could be disturbed or broken up following drilling. If a property was built or renovated before 1990 it is likely to contain some form of asbestos material.

Asbestos is considered to be a 'hidden

killer', causing serious diseases like lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis. It can often take around 15 to 60 years after the first exposure for fatal diseases to develop and it's estimated that more than 25,000 Australians will die from asbestos-related diseases over the next 40 years.

With electricians becoming one of the fastest-growing job categories with asbestos-related disease cases, this leaflet provides safety awareness to ensure that risks don't have to be taken on the job.

# Technical Knowledge Base (TKB)

FREE member access



**All NECA members across Australia have free online access to TKB: our industry's most comprehensive Technical Knowledge Base, which includes the updated Wiring Rules.**

NECA's exclusive Technical Knowledge Base is an online, fully searchable technical advice service, containing common electrical Standards, local network operator guidelines, legislation, FAQs and so much more. Need personalised advice? Our Technical experts are ready to help!

TKB can be accessed 24/7 from your computer or smart device and is simple to use.

**So if you're not yet a NECA member, give us a call!**

#### NECA ACT

Unit 1, 2 Yallourn St  
Fyshwick ACT 2609  
T (02) 6280 5580  
E act@neca.asn.au

#### NECA NSW

Level 3, 28 Burwood Rd,  
Burwood, NSW 2134  
T (02) 9744 1099  
E necansw@neca.asn.au

#### NECA QLD

Suite 1.5, 460 Beaudesert Rd  
Salisbury, QLD 4107  
T 07 3276 7950  
E necaq@neca.asn.au

#### NECA SA & NT

213 Greenhill Rd  
Eastwood SA 5063  
T (08) 8272 2966  
E neca@necasa.asn.au

#### NECA TAS

PO Box 620  
North Hobart, TAS 7002  
T (03) 6234 3464  
E necatas@neca.asn.au

#### NECA VIC

Level 12, 222 Kings Way  
Sth Melbourne, VIC 3205  
T (03) 9645 5533  
E necavic@neca.asn.au

#### NECA WA

Unit 18, 199 Balcatta Rd  
Balcatta, WA 6021  
T (08) 6241 6100  
E necawa@necawa.asn.au

#### NECA NATIONAL

Level 4, 30 Atchison St  
St Leonards, NSW 2065  
T (02) 9439 8523  
E necanat@neca.asn.au

For more information about NECA, visit our website.

**[www.neca.asn.au](http://www.neca.asn.au)**

## Aluminium cladding shows need for progress on non-compliant electrical products



The National Electrical and Communications Association has reacted positively to the recommendations outlined in the Australian Senate's interim report on aluminium composite cladding, released as part of its inquiry into non-conforming building products.

"As the report notes, the use of non-

compliant aluminium cladding is widespread and this poses significant dangers to the public, as shown by building fire disasters overseas such as the Grenfell Tower tragedy," says NECA chief executive Suresh Manickam.

"Despite this, there have been extensive delays in developing and implementing policies to address the use of non-compliant

products in the building industry in Australia.

"NECA has consistently advocated for increased government enforcement to reduce the importation and use of non-compliant building products, which in the electrical contracting sector have the potential to cause electrical fires and shocks leading to fatalities, as well as the loss of public confidence in the industry.

"We are therefore supportive of the interim report's recommendation that the Federal Safety Commissioner should be adequately resourced to carry out audits of compliance with the National Construction Code performance requirements in relation to building materials.

"NECA also urges that the Commonwealth and state and territory governments expedite progress on mandatory third party certification of building products and an improved product testing regime through fora such as the Building Minister's Forum.

"We also support the interim report's recommendation that the Commonwealth government expedites its consideration of Director Identification Numbers to address the issue of illegal phoenix activity, which negatively impacts many sub-contractors.

"Additionally, NECA seeks Commonwealth government support for the management and administration of the EESS (Electrical Equipment Safety System) database, which is designed to combat the use of non-compliant electrical products.

"Although EESS is designed to be a nationally operated scheme, it is currently only recognised in the Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia.

## Peter Lamont joins NECA as Queensland Executive Director

Former executive director of the Queensland Electrical Safety Office, Peter Lamont, has been appointed as the new executive director of NECA Queensland.

Peter has worked for the Commonwealth and State Government for many years and served in many Departments, including the Premier's Department when Kevin Rudd was the Director General and worked on various

COAG committees and working parties.

He oversaw the introduction of the 2011 Electrical Safety Bill that kicked off the National Electrical Equipment Safety System, which still being rolled out across the country today.

He chaired the national Electrical Regulatory Advisory Council (ERAC) for five years as well as chairing the Asia Pacific Economic Council (APEC) Electrical Industry subcommittee in

2010/11, the first time Australia had chaired this group and organised an APEC Electrical Risk Conference in Singapore in 2011 attended by over 80 delegates from APEC and Alliance of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) nations.

Peter has the skills, ability and connections to push NECA Queensland to the next level and members are in very good hands.



national  
electrical and  
communications  
association

