



A word from the CEO

As I'm writing this Australia has just seen its sixth prime minister in 11 years. These changes are having an obvious effect on policy certainty, consistency and the ability for industry to invest. To make sure that issues we've been advocating for on behalf of NECA members aren't overlooked, I met with members of the new cabinet in October. Some of the areas NECA has urged the Government to take action on are:

- Tax – implementing the tax cuts for small, medium and family businesses which have already been passed by Parliament.
- Workplace relations – delivering a framework that is fair to both the employee and employer delivering greater flexibility and efficiency.
- Skills and education – improving the quality of vocational education, actively promoting the benefits of a trade career path and uniformly adopting the Skilling Australia Fund.
- Infrastructure – continuing the investment, creating jobs and boosting the economic growth.

Awards season

What do Taronga Zoo, the d'Arenberg Cube restaurant, a RAAF Pilot Training School, the Pharos wing at MONA, Parklea Correctional Centre and the first community-funded floating solar system all have in common? Easy – they're all projects that won NECA members a state Excellence Award.

I was lucky enough to attend the Award presentations around the country and it was really inspiring to see the contribution NECA members are making to so many important projects right across Australia.

All our state winners are automatically entered into the 2018 NECA National Excellence Awards, the most prestigious award for our industry.

I'm not on the judging panel, but I can tell you that it's not going to be an easy task picking winners this year.

The Awards will be presented at a gala dinner on 22 November at the Grand Hyatt in Melbourne. It's always a fantastic event and there's still time to book tickets – visit the Awards section of www.neca.asn.au to book.



Suresh Manickam
CEO, National Electrical
and Communications Association

New Wiring Rules

After months of waiting, the 2018 Wiring Rules were finally released in June this year. If you haven't got your hands on a copy yet and you're a NECA member, we're making it easy for you. If you're after a hard copy, pick one up at a discounted price from your local Chapter. You can also access the new Standard for free on NECA's Technical Knowledge Database 24/7 – just one of the benefits of being a NECA member.

ISMAA Update

Early this year, NECA was appointed by the Federal Government to deliver their Industry Specialist Mentoring for Australian Apprentices (ISMAA) program to electrotechnology apprentices Australia-wide. The program has been running for some time now and one of NECA's mentors, Adam Waterhouse, has given us an insight into the most frequent areas the mentors are called on to provide advice.

• **Profiling:** Every task has a profile that the apprentices must work through in progression. There have been significant improvements in progress in this area with the mentors available to deal with questions via a quick phone call.

- **Confidence:** Mentors have helped apprentices to find ways to talk to their employers about work or personal issues that the employer and apprentice can then work through and deal with before they develop further.
- **Maths skills:** A lot of the mentors relate to the struggles that apprentices have when the maths component of their apprenticeship ramps up. They share tricks and resources and training resources with their mentees to help them master their maths skills.
- **Finances:** Managing budgets can be tricky when you first start earning. Again, this is

an area experienced by many mentors who can give advice on how they overcame the challenges for example getting a concession card for cheaper bills.

• **Downtime:** Keeping motivated during the downtime between jobs can be tricky for some. The mentors are able to explain to the apprentices how the contracting sector works, reassuring them and keeping them focused.

"An apprenticeship can be a rollercoaster; one day you're up, the next you're down. The mentors help smooth out the ride and support the apprentices with advice and tools to help them complete their training," Adam says.

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FREE member access



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NECA State Excellence Awards 2018



ACT 2018 NECA EXCELLENCE AWARDS



QLD 2018 NECA EXCELLENCE AWARDS



SA 2018 NECA EXCELLENCE AWARDS



TAS 2018 NECA EXCELLENCE AWARDS



WA 2018 NECA EXCELLENCE AWARDS



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