Inquest into the death of Dale Kennedy

Dale Kennedy was a third year apprentice electrician when he died in the ceiling space of a building at Bentley Park College on 12 December 2012.

Coroner Kevin Priestly delivered his findings of inquest on 28 February 2018.

The Queensland Government responds to recommendations directed to government agencies at inquests by informing the community if a recommendation will be implemented or the reason why a recommendation is not supported.

The departments named in this response will provide implementation updates until the recommendation is delivered. Further information relating the implementation of recommendations can be obtained from the responsible minister named in the response.

**Recommendation 1**
The Electrical Safety Office reconsider the various options for the extension of the requirement for the mandatory fitting of residual current devices (including cost benefit analysis), and a draft discussion paper be circulated to key stakeholders and the public for consultation prior to finalisation of its policy position or advice to state government.

Response and action: implementation of the recommendation is under consideration.

Responsible agency: Department of Education (Office of Industrial Relations).

On 9 December 2019 the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations responded:

The Office of Industrial Relations is continuing to evaluate options for responding to this recommendation.

**On 4 June 2020 the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations responded:**

On 23 July 2019 the Honourable Grace Grace MP, Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations wrote to the Commissioner for Electrical Safety requesting he convene an industry roundtable to discuss: safety in the solar farm industry, options for legislative amendment to ensure the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* (Qld) (ES Act) keeps pace with this fast growing industry, and emerging technologies and matters that should be addressed in a long term review of the ES Act. The roundtable met three times on 7 August 2019, 9 October 2019 and 20 November 2019.

On 20 January 2020 the commissioner delivered his report, *Improving Electrical Safety in Queensland*, to the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. The report makes nine recommendations aimed at ensuring Queensland’s electrical safety laws keep pace with emerging technologies and improving electrical safety in Queensland. The Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations referred the report and its recommendations to the Office of Industrial Relations for analysis and advice on next steps.