

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 department 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 in progress.

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.

On 9 September 2020 the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations responded:

The Office of Industrial Relations analysed the report of the Commissioner for Electrical Safety, *Improving Electrical Safety in Queensland*. The report's nine recommendations include a wide-reaching review of the *Electrical Safety Act 2002*, and in that context, a focus on residual current device requirements. The report's recommendation for a review of the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* has been accepted and the Office of Industrial Relations are now planning the review process.

On 26 April 2021 the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing responded:

An independent reviewer, Mr Dick Williams, was appointed in December 2020 to conduct the review of the *Electrical Safety Act 2002*. Mr Williams has over 40 years' experience in the electrical industry and is the current chair of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Board. Mr Williams will be undertaking extensive consultation with stakeholders in industry, unions and the community, to inform the content of the review. This will include an open, public consultation process, providing an opportunity for all interested parties to deliver written submissions to the review. The review is to be completed by December 2021.

Stakeholder consultation is expected to commence in early 2021. The review report is expected to be delivered in December 2021 for government consideration.

On 14 October 2021 the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing responded:

The independent reviewer of the *Electrical Safety Act 2002*, Mr Williams, undertook extensive consultation with stakeholders in industry, unions and the community, to inform the content of the review. An issues paper was published online on 4 March 2021 that set out the purpose and scope of the review. The issues paper also invited written submissions to the review between 5 March and 18 April 2021.

The review is currently working on drafting recommendations based on consultation activities, with a final report containing recommendations due to the minister in December 2021.

On 5 May 2022 the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing responded:

The independent review of the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* was completed, with a report and recommendations delivered to the minister in December 2021. The Office of Industrial Relations is currently analysing the report and recommendations to inform ministerial consideration of the recommendations and a government response.