

eTELIT

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Unlicensed apprentice fined \$45k for illegal electrical work
- Telecommunications Smart wiring
- Pursuing Net Zero conference & exhibition 18-19 Oct 23
- Safety Shovel
- Australia Tech Summit & Conference CEDIA 11-12 Oct 23
- Comtech training
- Useful links



Unlicensed Apprentice Fined \$45K for Illegal Electrical Work

(This article was published in the ECD newsletter 6/9/23)

An unlicensed electrical apprentice has been fined \$45,000 in the Richlands Magistrates Court for non-compliant and unsafe electrical work in South East Queensland between November and December 2020.

The defendant, Brendon Graham, pleaded guilty to six charges including failing to comply with electrical safety duties, installing unsafe electrical wiring and not holding the appropriate electrical licences.

An investigation by the Electrical Safety Office (ESO) was prompted by a complaint about Mr Graham's AirTasker profile 'Brendon G', which stated he was a licensed electrical contractor who could install ceiling fans, lights and external aircon power switches as well as replace power points.

At the time, Mr Graham was a fourth-year apprentice and did not hold an electrical work licence nor an electrical contractor licence. He performed electrical work for 27 customers including installing ceiling fans, power points, lights and cooktops.

The investigation identified unsafe electrical work and wiring rules contraventions at five locations, four of which exposed home owners to serious electrical risk.

Electrical Safety Office Executive Director, Donna Heelan said they make no apologies for pursuing rogue operators who fail to comply with electrical safety and licensing legislation to ensure that Queenslanders are safe.

Mr Graham pleaded guilty to:

- four charges of failing to comply with an electrical safety duty
- one charge of performing electrical work whilst not holding an electrical worker's licence
- one charge of performing electrical contracting while not holding an electrical contractor's licence

In sentencing, Magistrate Shearer stated the legislative scheme was designed to prevent unlicensed people from doing such work and that the penalties imposed have to be a real deterrent. The defendant was fined \$45,000 with no conviction recorded.

Editors Note:

This incident underscores the need for qualified and registered cablers or tradespeople in general, to meet legal requirements on their platforms. The ACMA has written to AIRTASKER on the need for clear statements and registration requirements to be applied in their advertisements.

Registrars have also contacted AIRTASKER from time to time on the requirements for cablers to be applied. As well as regulatory punishments, there is always the risk of litigation, which could arise from a failure of a security or medical alarm years later, if a lawyer discovers an installation was illegal due to non-compliance.



Telecommunications “SmartWiring”– Registered Cabler Website (RCWS)

TITAB Australia is a member of the Registered Cabler Website consortium and the site www.registeredcabl原因ers.com.au is for our registered cablers and open for industry stakeholders and the public, as an advisory service. Links are on the NBNSCo website. Originally, it was to assist cablers navigate the then new NBNSCo environment, but has since expanded.

An industry agreement means TITAB ACMA CPR Open registered cablers, with mandated endorsements/specialist competencies, can use the facilities including:-

- Smart Wired booklets titled Home Wiring Essentials, Quick Guides and the Installer Handbook can be downloaded.
- TITAB Open Registered Cablers with Structured and Co-Axial (and Fibre where required)– can sign off their work with the Smart Wired Logo, when cabling meets the requirements of HomeWiring Essentials-1 Communications and 2 Entertainment Sample Label on website.

The Smart Wired logo is copyright, owned by the ICAA(International Copper Association Australia). The “electrical” sector has been using this marketing advantage, while most telecommunications/data cablers have not.

But Smart Wiring applies in our sector and can help lift quality and provide some advantages to the “good guys” particularly sole traders and small contractors.

The smartwired website is www.smartwiredhouse.com.au and ICAA are on www.copper.com.au There is an information/advice service here.

The cabler should fill in the compliance label, placing it in a visible place.

NOTE: The ACMA Compliance Form TCA1 and optional TCA2 still need to be given to the customer. This is protection for cablers and the customer in the event of future litigation.

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FIBER TO THE HOME APAC

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AUSTRALIA TECH SUMMIT & CONFERENCE

11-12 OCTOBER 2023

SEA WORLD CONFERENCE CENTRE, MAIN BEACH, QLD

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Wednesday, 11 October
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TRAINING ORGANIZATIONS



Open registration skill set in Western Australia

Week 1

OHS

Hand and power tools

Electrical Principles

Week 2

Open Registration

There are two payment types

1. Fee-free training must meet eligibility criteria below
2. Subsidised training

Eligibility criteria for fee-free training:

- Are you aged between 15-24 years and not enrolled in secondary school?
- Are you receiving JobSeeker or JobKeeper?
- Are you receiving or a dependent of a person receiving Youth Allowance, AUSTUDY or ABSTUDY?
- Do you hold, or are you a dependent of a person who holds:
- a Pensioner Concession Card or Health Care Card; or

- a Repatriation Health Benefits Card issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs?
- Are you a dependent of persons who are inmates of a custodial institution?

If you answered yes to any of the above eligibility requirements, you will be eligible for fee-free training.

Please note students attending high school do not qualify for any subsidies

If you did not answer yes, you are still eligible for subsidised training, please see the fee table below.

Fee Type Amount Eligible for fee-free training No charge Eligible for concession \$81.60 Eligible for subsidised training \$275.40

For more information log onto the [Comtech Website](#)

Or call our centre on 08 9355 5770

Useful Links

[TITAB](#)

[nbn™](#)

[ACMA](#)

[ACMA Complaints line](#)

[Dial before you dig](#)

[A2A and Network Boundary Issues](#)

[Communications Alliance](#)

[Registered Cablers website](#)

[Smartwired](#)

