



NSW Utilities & Electrotechnology
Industry Training Advisory Body (ITAB)

NSW UE ITAB News Service 155–September 2026

Executive Officer Message

Welcome to the September news service of the NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB. This month the ITAB also provided advice to DEWR on new Training Package Operating Frameworks (TPOF). I also continued to provide detailed advice to NSW DCCEEW on the Approved Service Provider Scheme and met with industry stakeholders regarding the skill required for the development and maintenance of data centres.



Enjoy the read.

In this newsletter we have an:

NSW News

- **NSW Electrical Industry Safety Concerns**
- **NSW Electrical Industry Safety Concerns-A GTO Perspective**
- **Understanding Competency Requirements for UEE30820**
- **Smart and Skilled Update**

National News

- **Real Skills Deserve Real Recognition: Resource pack**
- **UEE Full Training Package Review**

NSW Electrical Industry Safety Concerns

The National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) has welcomed the release of Report No. 89 by the NSW Legislative Council Standing Committee on Law and Justice into the state's work health and safety scheme. The report is a significant and long-overdue acknowledgement of the systemic weaknesses NECA has raised on behalf of electrical apprentices, licensed workers and consumers.



“This report reflects the evidence NECA put before the Committee that fragmented regulation, poor information sharing between agencies, and inadequate incident triage have allowed serious risks to go unaddressed,” said NECA NSW & ACT Executive Director Mark Stedfut. “We are pleased the Committee has treated this as a systemic failure requiring systemic reform.”

“Apprentices form their habits and risk awareness by observing the behaviours of their employers and their supervisors,” said NECA’s Director for Policy, Technical, and Safety, Neil Roberts. “When poor practices are tolerated, those practices become embedded. This is particularly dangerous in trades with unforgiving hazards such as electrical work.”

“Where poor practices are tolerated, and the regulatory system fails to intervene, the risk compounds for the next generation of apprentices and for consumers relying on that work being done safely,” Mr Roberts said.

NECA particularly endorses Recommendation 20, which calls on the NSW Government to establish a dedicated, specialist regulator responsible for licensing, oversight and enforcement of safety standards for electrical and gas work. For more information visit: [NECA calls for swift action on NSW Parliamentary Committee report validating industry safety concern](#)

NSW Electrical Industry Safety Concerns- A GTO Perspective:

Mr. Tom Emeleus, Chairperson of Apprenticeship Employment Network NSW ACT, said the report provides a clear blueprint for raising safety standards across the state while removing financial penalties that currently constrain the growth of apprentice employment.

“This report confirms what our sector has long advocated: registered GTOs provide a critical safety net for apprentices and trainees. However, the current workers’ compensation premium structure penalises safety-focused GTOs, while non-registered entities operate without the same rigorous safety oversight. This inquiry lays down a clear challenge to all sides of politics to fix these systemic flaws.”



Key Recommendations Supported by AEN NSW ACT Include:

- **Workers’ Compensation Insurance Reform (Recommendation 1):** Reviewing premium calculation methods so GTO safety investments are recognised, and injury data is contextualised without constraining apprentice employment growth.
- **Mandatory Registration Standards (Recommendation 2):** Extending regulatory oversight by considering mandatory GTO registration for any labour-hire or non-registered organisation hiring apprentices to ensure uniform safety across the market.
- **Mandatory Supervisor Training (Recommendation 5):** Requiring formal WHS training for supervisors of apprentices in businesses with more than 20 workers.
- **Improved Incident Notification (Recommendation 6):** Disaggregating WHS incident data and ensuring GTOs are immediately notified of workplace incidents involving apprentices.
- **Dedicated Industry Governance (Recommendation 7):** Establishing a dedicated Apprentices and Trainees Work Health and Safety Advisory Committee with direct GTO representation.

Understanding Competency Requirements for UEE30820:

Following the newsletters’ themes over the last few months of industry expectations for the delivery of the electrical qualification, here is more practical advice for the Electrotechnology Electrician (UEE30820) qualification.

Each **unit of competency** within UEE30820 defines: **Performance Evidence** - What the learner must *do* (practical tasks, number of occasions, conditions, safety practices). **Knowledge Evidence** - What the learner must *know* (theory, standards, codes, principles). **Assessment Conditions** - Required context and resources, including whether assessment must occur in an authentic workplace or if simulated environments are permitted

These components determine whether tasks can realistically be completed in a workplace or require a **training environment** due to safety, complexity, or access to appropriate equipment.

[Core Units in UEE30820 that require complex knowledge and practice:](#)

UEECD0016: Document and apply measures to control WHS risks

Why Training Facility is beneficial: Requires demonstration of comprehensive risk assessment *and* contextual understanding of industry standards; best supported in structured settings where scenarios can be modelled safely

UEECD0051: Use drawings, diagrams, standards, codes and specifications

Why Training Facility is beneficial: Involves interpreting AS/NZS standards and technical specs, which benefits from classroom theory and scaffolded learning

UEECD0046/44: Solve Problems in Circuits

Why Training Facility is beneficial: Complex fault finding & analytical knowledge; often requires equipment and controlled setups that *workplaces don't always provide*

UEEEL0005: Develop and connect electrical control circuits

Why Training Facility is beneficial Control circuits require design, simulation, building and testing - better in workshops with appropriate devices & test gear

UEEEL008 Evaluate and modify specific LV circuits

Why Training Facility is beneficial: Practical modifications under safety procedures are best taught with safety controls and controlled test circuits available at training facilities

These units include substantial **Knowledge Evidence** (codes, standards, safety theory) alongside **Performance Evidence** that isn't always regularly encountered in every workplace, especially early in an apprenticeship. For example, interpreting wiring diagrams alongside AS/NZS 3000 standards is foundational theory that is more effective to teach and assess in a classroom or lab

In the next month's edition of we will explore ***Why Training Facilities are still Essential for the delivery of UEE30820***

Smart and Skilled Update

ACCESS FREE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT WOMEN IN TRADES

Free women in trades program resources are available to support both female apprentices and trainees and employers, including those who employ women apprentices and trainees. Share the following information with women in trades – such as students, apprentices, trainees and their employers to help create inclusive workplaces.



For Apprentices and trainees

Visit the support for women apprentices and trainee's webpage, you can also register to connect with an industry mentor or access one-on-one support

For Employers

You can visit supporting women in trades webpage and register for supervisor training

For more information visit Women in trades webpage <https://education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw/students-and-job-seekers/women-in-trades/support#register-mentors>

or email WITsupport@det.nsw.edu.au

NATIONAL UPDATE

Real Skills Deserve Real Recognition: Resource pack:

Following on with the theme of industry expectations for the delivery skills and training, the Australian Government has now released a series of resources to assist potential students choose a prospective RTO. Key Messages include:

- Non-genuine providers use misleading marketing tactics, such as promising “no study,” “guaranteed success,” or “quick qualifications.” These are red flags for scams.
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a legitimate way to have your skills and experience formally recognised, but only when it’s done properly.
- Genuine RPL involves clear guidance, evidence of your skills, and a thorough assessment process.
- If a provider offers a qualification without proper assessment, it’s not real RPL—it’s a risk to your future.
- Students and employers should check that providers are registered on and ask for written agreements before paying any fees.
- If you suspect a provider is offering non-genuine qualifications or practices, report them to ASQA at 1300 644 844 or via the online tip-off form on asqa.gov.au.
- Learn how to spot the red flags and identify genuine providers by visiting



[Real Skills Deserve Real Recognition: Resource pack | Your Career](#)

UEE Full Training Package Review

Here are some key changes as of September 2026:

Broad Electrical:

New broad use unit for installing and maintaining low voltage electrical equipment progressing, consolidating 3 older units and standardising terminology.

New compliance and verification units drafted, combining previously duplicated single phase and 3 phase content, with ongoing consultation with regulators and licencing bodies

Cable and assessor installation unit progressing, replacing 2 existing UOC, with isolation and testing being refined.

Advanced Diplomas and Diplomas

All Advanced Diplomas and Diplomas qualification structures are set

Advanced Diploma Core Units- incorporates Engineering Australia Stage 1 competency standard for professional engineer

Electronics and Communication, Security, Data and Voice

CII, III and IV qualification structures are now finalised, including pathways and specialisations

Fire Detection and Control:

Completed and now going through the process of refinement, seeking industry support and regulatory confirmation

Hazardous Areas

Completed and now going through the process of refinement, seeking industry support and regulatory confirmation

HVAC-R

CIII structure under review, comparing core only and reduced packaging options

New tools UOC progressing as the likely replacement for the current UOC

Final review of air conditioning and refrigeration fault finding UOC underway, with drafting amendments being circulated.

Instrument and Control

CIV instrument and Control core to be strengthened, with 2 additional UOC and a new elective UOC confirmed

CIV Electrical Instrumentation qualification description being revised to better reflect its role as a post trade upskilling pathway for licenced tradespeople.

New instrumentation skill set in development, with no entry requirement to broaden access for related trades and professions,

Rail Signalling and Communications

Rail Communications incorporated into CIII Electronics as a dedicated Specialisation

CIII Electronics, including Communication, planned for the next comms phase

Renewable Energy

CIV Renewable Energy qualification structure finalised

Core and elective UOC drafted and ready for consultation

3 renewable energy skill sets developed from elective groupings

For more detailed information and to provide feedback to PSO you will be required to develop a **FREE** account with PSO go to <https://poweringskills.com.au/portal/login/?tab=create-account>

As you are aware, the ITAB advocates to ensure that NSW industry stakeholders needs are included in the reviews of the training package. Please ensure that any feedback give to PSO includes the ITAB. We cannot advocate on your behalf if we don't know the issues or have the advice.

If you would like to contribute to this News Service, please feel free to write to the undersigned accordingly. Thank you.

For the latest and past News Services visit: www.uensw.com.au/news/

Kind regards
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