




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

St Patrick's Day; Electrical Safety

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.12 am): As multicultural minister, I want to wish everyone a very happy St Patrick's Day. Queenslanders love celebrating everything that is Irish and green. Queenslanders also love DIYs and relish the opportunity to renovate our houses into the perfect home, but we should not let our love affair with DIY and renovation lead to unsafe practices in the family home. Home renovations and DIYs should not cost a single life, but the sad reality is that fatalities can and do occur when we are working on our own homes, particularly when entering a roof or ceiling area without turning off the electricity supply. That is why from June the Palaszczuk government will continue with a vital home safety campaign to improve awareness about roof electrical safety, and I acknowledge the bipartisan support for this important safety initiative.

Throughout 2014 the 'Stay safer up there, switch off down here' electrical safety campaign helped to improve electrical safety awareness for thousands of Queenslanders. The campaign successfully highlighted the absolute necessity of turning off all main power switches in a home switchboard before going up into the ceiling space. The campaign was so successful that it led to more than 90 per cent of tradespeople saying that they are now prepared to turn off or consider turning off the power before entering a ceiling space. Just as importantly, nearly 90 per cent of home owners said that they would also turn the power off or not go up there at all.

It is essential that we continue to get the simple but extremely important message about electrical safety out there into the community. Electrical safety in the home is too important to neglect and no-one can afford to be complacent about it. Whether you are a home owner or a tradie, you should always turn off the main power switches at the switchboard before going up into the ceiling space.

The campaign will also remind Queenslanders that all electrical work is best left to the professionals. We want to give this important campaign the widest possible audience, and I know the member for Kallangur, in particular, has an interest in this issue. That is why we are also running the campaign via hardware stores throughout Queensland. Close to a million brochures with a reminder sticker that can be placed on switchboards across the state will be distributed via Queensland hardware stores. Let us all get behind this important campaign. Let us get our homes safe and make sure we always use a professional when it comes to electrical work. That is the best way to go forward.