

Question on Notice
No. 791
Asked on 24 May 2007

MISS SIMPSON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MR MICHEL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the employment of electrical safety inspectors whose job is to enforce the *Electricity Safety Act 2002* which requires inspectors to carry out compliance inspections and investigations—

- (1) What are the necessary qualifications of electrical safety inspectors employed by the Electrical Safety Office?
- (2) Who determines, and who assesses, the qualifications necessary for electrical safety inspectors employed by the Electrical Safety Office?
- (3) Given that the Department of Main Roads and the Department of Public Works require their departmental electrical inspectors to hold an electrical contract licence, why is it not essential for electrical safety inspectors employed by the Electrical Safety Office to be equally qualified?

ANSWER:

I am advised that the Act which the Honourable Member is referring to is actually called the *Electrical Safety Act 2002*.

- (1) I am advised that inspectors have demonstrated specialist knowledge and skills commensurate with the requirements of the position. Additionally, electrical safety inspectors hold a trade allied to the electrical industry, with some holding post trade or tertiary qualifications. All electrical safety inspectors have at least 5 years recent experience in a role with significant electrical responsibilities, and have demonstrated knowledge and application of the Wiring Rules and other relevant standards and electrical safety legislation.
- (2) I am advised that the Electrical Safety Office, in conjunction with the Human Resources Unit of the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, determines what qualifications and experience are necessary for persons applying for electrical safety inspectorate positions.
- (3) I am advised that all electrical safety inspectors in the Electrical Safety Office hold a relevant electrical work licence.