

Question on Notice

No. 1665

Asked on Tuesday, 11 November 2008

MRS MILLER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MR MICKEL)—

QUESTION:

Will he provide information to the people of the Bundamba Electorate about the safety of Christmas lights in preparation for the 2008 Christmas season?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations that the Electrical Safety Office is undertaking a number of activities focusing on electrical safety during this festive season.

Electrical Safety Office inspectors are conducting audits of decorative Christmas lights offered for sale in Queensland. Decorative Christmas lights are prescribed electrical equipment which must meet Australian standards and have a certificate of approval prior to being offered for sale. Lights, plugs and cords, transformers and figurines are being inspected, as well as the bulbs themselves on Christmas lighting decorations.

This audit is part of the Electrical Safety Office 2008/2009 state-wide compliance campaign program and involves electrical inspectors visiting retail and wholesale outlets which specialise in the sale of decorative Christmas lights. The audit seeks to confirm that lights offered for sale are safe to use and appropriately approved.

The Electrical Safety Office has developed a media strategy to raise consumer awareness of potential hazards associated with the inappropriate use, handling and placement of decorative Christmas lighting.

This strategy includes the development of media releases for circulation to all media outlets as well as the distribution of a brochure providing safety hints on the purchase and use of decorative lights. Electrical Safety Office inspectors will again be available to present on current affairs television programs as part of the public awareness campaign.

The Electrical Safety Office is also working with the Department of Emergency Services in providing information in respect of the risks of fire associated with the use of faulty, damaged or unapproved decorative lights.