



## **Lighting Council Australia**

PO Box 1058, Hawthorn, VIC, 3122

**Tel:** +61 3 9819 9441

**Fax:** +61 3 9815 2609

**Mobile:** +61 418 566 647

**Email:** [rmulcahy@lightingcouncil.com.au](mailto:rmulcahy@lightingcouncil.com.au)

**Web:** [www.lightingcouncil.com.au](http://www.lightingcouncil.com.au)

**ACN** 130 217 613

# **Media Release**

## **Get ready for a shock: Lighting Council Australia issues stern warning to sparkies about public safety**

Lighting Council Australia will issue a stern warning to electrical contractors about the need to install safe lighting equipment in its annual workshop event in Brisbane on Tuesday. The one-day event will see industry leaders come together to share insights about how the industry can provide the community with cutting edge technology that helps the environment and keeps the public safe.

“Public safety is forefront in peoples’ minds after the Grenfell disaster”, said Timocles Copland, Corporate Affairs Manager for Lighting Council Australia, referring to the shocking fire in London earlier this year that claimed 80 lives. “Non-compliant building products can cost lives and we are working hard to make sure that people know the risks here in Australia.”

Consumers have good reason to be concerned with around 2,000 electrical events being reported each year.

“We are going to be sending a very clear message to electrical contractors next week: the buck stops with you”, said Mr Aaron Anderson, Legal Partner at Norton Rose Fulbright and specialist in work health and safety law. “In Queensland, as in other states, sparkies who install non-compliant equipment face very strict penalties that could include de-registration, personal legal liability, and even criminal charges.”

On a more positive note, those attending the one-day event will also hear from Professor Andrew Zele, a specialist in the science of human vision from Queensland University of Technology, who will speak about his pioneering research into melanopsin, a chemical in the eye that is affected by light and has significant effects on human health and well-being. Professor Zele’s research will clear the way for the lighting industry to provide consumers with specialised lighting systems that improve peoples’ sleep cycles and moods. “It’s certainly a very exciting time in this field: we have the opportunity to really improve peoples’ lives by taking what we’re learning in the laboratory and putting it into practice in peoples’ homes and offices.”

As the peak body representing the lighting industry, Lighting Council Australia holds training events for lighting professionals, including electrical contractors who work with lighting equipment. The event in Brisbane is followed by similar events in Sydney and Melbourne.

Enquiries:

Timocles Copland

Corporate Affairs Manager, Lighting Council Australia - 0450 644 430