



# Presiding Member's Report

It is with great pleasure that the Electrical Workers Registration Board (the Board) present this their thirteenth annual report. The Board welcomed new members during the year.

Penny Mudford has been appointed as the new lay person on the Board and replaces Deborah Rundle who resigned last year to travel overseas.

Penny is an arbitrator based in Wellington and has a background in dispute resolution. Penny is also a member of the Veterinary Council of New Zealand.

Paul Guy was appointed to the Board earlier in the year, but unfortunately due to a change in his work circumstances, was only with us for a short time before resigning. Paul was replaced by Stephen Albrecht, an Inspector and Compliance Manager with MainPower in Rangiora.

2007/2008 has been another interesting and busy year for the Board, particularly with the pending introduction of the new Electricity Safety Regulations. These new regulations have given the Board more responsibility, especially in the areas of Categories of Registration and Practicing Licence requirements. The Board has had some considerable discussion and debate on these subjects as we try to get the best possible outcomes for industry.

Another highlight for me in the last year was the opportunity to attend the ECANZ Challenge held in Albany. I had the chance to interview candidates, have a look at the quality of their work, and I was impressed with the skills and commitment shown by all the candidates. I must say that what I saw there, leads me to believe the future of the industry is in good hands.

The downside for me over the past year is the increase in the number of complaints received against electrical workers. As shown in the statistics section of the report, eighty-eight complaints were received and of those fifty-nine were referred to the Board by Complaints Assessment Committees.



The Board is very concerned at the number of complaints that involve a lack of adequate testing and the Board will continue to monitor this aspect over the forthcoming year.

I believe we have a very balanced and focused Board at present and would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the role made by the other Board members.

To Deputy Presiding Member Sam Ponga, and to Board members Eddie Eeles, Bernardine Hannan and Tom Leong my thanks for their continued support over the last year and to Penny and Stephen for their contribution since joining the Board. These people bring the range of skills necessary for the smooth running of the Board, but I think what is often overlooked is the time commitment needed to meet the Board requirements and I would like to recognize the commitment of Board members in this area.

The Board would also like to pass on their thanks and gratitude to the staff of the EWLG, in particular, Registrar John Sickels and Secretary Trish Tchernegovski for their continued invaluable assistance during the year.



**Don Pryde** 

Presiding Member

# Registrar's Review

### **Output Agreement with Minister**

During the year the Minister and the Board entered into an Output Agreement with the Minister for Building and Construction.

The Output Agreement establishes performance expectations for the outputs provided by the Board and enables the Minister to monitor the Board, and hold the Board accountable for its performance. The Output Agreement contains eleven outputs for which the Board is accountable and those outputs are reported on as follows;

#### **Required Output**

To register and licence in the four legislated registration categories.

#### **Performance**

Function must be carried out in accordance with section 149 of the Act.

#### **Performance Measure**

The following registrations were issued in accordance with the Act's provisions;

- (1) Electrician 1,146
- (2) Electrical Service Technician 408
- (3) Electrical Inspector 74
- (4) Line Mechanic 252

#### **Required Output**

To ensure registered persons maintain an adequate level of competency

#### Performance

Function must be carried out in accordance with section 149 of the Act

#### **Performance Measure**

- 1,512 audits of work carried out under Certificate of Compliance programme
- (2) 923 work audit results were analysed and of those 169 were non complaint and are being further considered
- (3) 6,016 telephone audits of registered persons who had not uplifted practising licences were carried out
- (4) 13 new training providers have voluntarily agreed to offer prerequisite practising licence training in line with the Board's requirements bringing the total number of training providers now under the Board's approval and auditing programme to 63
- (5) 13015 registered people have attended prerequisite practising licence refresher training

#### **Required Output**

To exercise disciplinary powers

#### **Performance**

Function must be carried out in accordance with section 149 of the Act

#### **Performance Measure**

59 complaint hearings were conducted and 27 registered persons were found guilty of disciplinary offences

#### **Required Output**

Implement those amendments to the Electricity Act 1992 as listed in the Electricity Amendment Act 2006

#### **Performance**

Amendments to be implemented within six months of enactment of regulations

#### **Performance Measure**

- (1) In May, following consideration of the submissions received on its first discussion paper on proposed categories of registration the Board released a second discussion paper and a summary of the submissions received
- (2) Work has commenced on the scoping and drafting of user and business case requirements for public register enhancement
- (3) Enhanced processes were introduced for the handling of complaints

#### **Required Output**

Implement the Board's three year strategic plan with the overall mission to ensure the safety of all New Zealanders through the ongoing competency of electrical workers

#### **Performance**

- (1) To set licensed electrical worker competency standards which achieve maximum public and worker safety with least impediment to industry
- (2) To identify licensed electrical workers who operate below industry standards
- (3) To encourage a positive behaviour change among non complaint electrical workers

#### **Performance Measure**

 Examination prescriptions and teaching guidelines were developed and issued for;

Electrical Service Technician Level "A"

Electrical Service Technician Level "B"

**Electrical Inspector** 

Line Mechanic

- (2) A total of 88 reports relating to electrical workers who had complaints lodged against them were considered.
- (3) A total of 18 investigations of non registered people who had allegedly carried out prescribed electrical work were undertaken. All people working in contravention of the registration/licensing requirements are encouraged to comply with those requirements

#### **Required Output**

To provide appropriate delegations to the Registrar to allow the Board to focus and operate at a strategic level

#### **Performance**

Appropriate delegations are exercised or performed by the Registrar in the same manner and with the same effect as the Board could have exercised or performed them

#### **Performance Measure**

The following functions, which address the Board's operations functions, are formally delegated to the Registrar;

- (1) Approval of registrations and provisional licences
- (2) Development of reciprocal registration agreements
- (3) Maintenance and keeping of registers
- (4) Management of Board information
- (5) Representing the Board

#### **Required Output**

#### Communication between Board and Registrar

#### Performance

Meet with the Registrar on a regular basis – minimum of 6 meetings per year

#### **Performance Measure**

The Registrar meet with the Board 15 times

#### **Required Output**

Liaise with other relevant occupational licensing Boards

#### **Performance**

Engage with other relevant occupational licensing Boards

#### **Performance Measure**

The Registrar represented the Board at both six monthly meetings of the Australian/New Zealand Electricity Regulators Advisory Council. That Council is made up in part by representatives from electrical occupational licensing authorities from all Australian States and Territory's

#### **Required Output**

To keep and maintain a register of registered electrical workers

#### **Performance**

Register containing the relevant details available to public

#### **Performance Measure**

A electronic register relating to all registered electrical workers is available to the public at www.ewrb.govt.nz

The electronic register is also available for public use at the Board's office

#### **Required Output**

To provide information to the public about the registration system

#### **Performance**

- Regular and appropriate communication with registrants, potential registrants and key stakeholders
- Communication strategy developed to ensure the public is aware of the registration system (including the ability to make complaints)
- Number of complaints resolved in a timely manner.
   Make clear decisions as to the outcome of each complaint and record this decision in an appropriate manner.

#### **Performance Measure**

In excess of 40,000 registered electrical workers, approximately 2,500 trainees and 250 stakeholders on the Board's mailing lists were sent 8 issues of ELECTRON newsletter

28 separate mail outs were also sent to the above mentioned stakeholders and those covered subjects such as examination reports, teaching guidelines, training agreements, information on standards and discussion papers

The Board agreed on a strategy for a publicity programme to be carried out which would result in a Board brochure on the registration and complaints systems being delivered to in excess of 1.4 million households throughout the country

The Board's Statement of Service Performance target for providing a decision on the complaint is 70% within 15 weeks of receiving a report from a Complaints Assessment Committee. The Board achieved a result of 97%.

All Board decisions on complaints are recorded in full in Board minutes.

#### **Required Output**

Handling of Appeals

#### **Performance**

Number of Appeals resolved in a timely manner

#### **Performance Measure**

No Appeals against Board or Registrar decisions have been received

Annual report Provide commentary on an overview of the sector Provide commentary on a 3-5 year outlook



#### The Board

The Board met fifteen times over thirty three days during the year.

The Minister for Building and Construction appointed Penny Mudford who has a background in arbitration and mediation and Stephen Albrecht, an electrical inspector, to the Board for three year terms.

At the January meeting the Board elected Don Pryde as its Presiding Member and Sam Ponga as the Deputy Presiding Member.

Murray Willis who had been the Board's Presiding Member from 2001 to early 2007 did not seek re-election for the position of Presiding Member and completed his term on the Board during the year. Murray's contribution to the Board is acknowledged.

## **Electricity Safety Regulations**

The Board provided a submission to the Ministry of Economic Development on the Proposed Electricity Safety Regulations Discussion Paper dated December 2007.

# Agreement to register electricians trained in the Cook Islands

The Board approved a proposal enabling electricians from the Cook Islands to obtain a Certificate of Attainment which will be a prerequisite for electrician registration under the Electricity Act 1992.

The agreement is based on the successful Trans Tasman electrician training regime where trainees are trained on the same competencies in both Australia and New Zealand.

## **Agreements with Industry Training Organisations**

The Board has continued with its Agreements with the Electrotechnology and Electricity Supply Industry Training Organisations.

It is anticipated that with the advent of new categories of registration combined with the Board's desire to incorporate all electrical registration categories into the national qualification framework, the Agreements will require amending in the near future.

The Board acknowledges and thanks the Electrotechnology and Electricity Supply Industry Training Organisations for the excellent results achieved through the Agreements.

## **Agreements with Industry Organisations**

The Board entered into an Agreement with the Appliance and Electronic Industry Association of New Zealand which enables members of the Association to be classified as low risk in the Board's risk based audit strategy.

The Board has also continued the Agreement with the Electrical Contractors Association of New Zealand which also enables members of the Association to be classified as low risk.

## **Industry Partners**

The Board was represented at the Annual Conferences of the Electrical Institute of New Zealand, Electrical Contractors Association of New Zealand and the Appliance and Electronic Industry Association of New Zealand.

The Board was also represented at meetings of the Electrical Institute of New Zealand, Standards New Zealand Electrical Co-Ordination Committee and the

Electrotechnology Industry Training Organisation Electrical Engineering Advisory Committee.

The Board took part in the Electrical Contractors Association of New Zealand "Challenge" and "Tradeshow" and the Electricity Supply Industry Training Organisation's "Excellence Awards".

The previously reported on Agreement with Site Safe was continued. The Agreement is one where the safety refresher course associated with the Agreement integrates the Site Safe Passport and Board Practising Licence refresher course prescription requirements and is considered to demonstrate that the private and public sectors can work successfully together to achieve worker safety.

The Board acknowledges and thanks all its industry partners for the outcomes achieved and looks forward to continuing the relationships during the year ahead.

## **Publicity Programme**

Following consideration of information received concerning the electrical installation of heat pumps by people who were allegedly not authorised to carry out such work, the Board carried out a publicity programme in daily newspapers which recommended homeowners who have electrical work carried out ask to see an electrical workers practising licence and ask for a Certificate of Compliance.

#### **Comment on Statistics**

The year under review has seen the number of practising licences issued increased over the previous year by 0.75% to a total of 26,433 while the number of new registrations issued decreased by 3.3% to 1,880.

Certificate of Compliance sales remained steady with a total of 281,680 being sold for the year compared with a total of 279,500 being sold for the previous year.

The number of people attempting Board examinations increased by 3.8% to 4,479 however the number of people passing examinations reduced from 86% to 71%.

The number of complaints against electrical workers increased by 4.8% while the number of complaints referred to the Board by Complaints Assessment Committees increased by 31%. The number of electrical workers found guilty of disciplinary offences by the Board decreased by 23%.

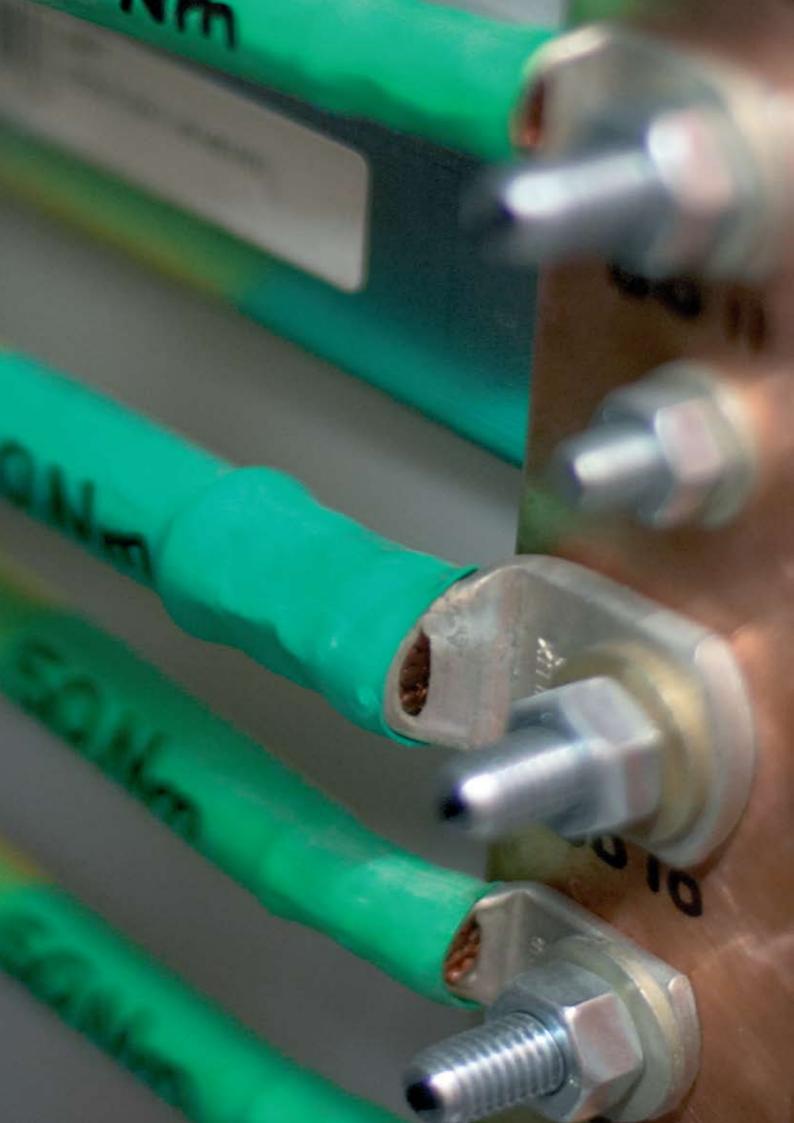
Full detail on the statistics for the year are included shown in pictorial form in this report.



John Sickels

Registrar





# **Board Financials**

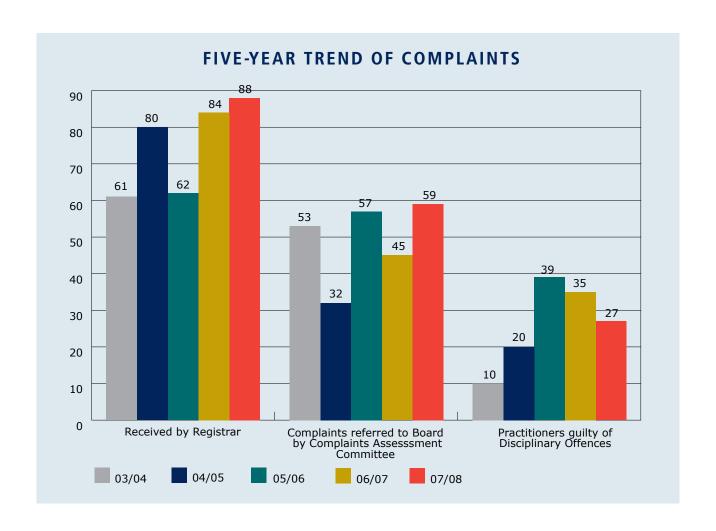
The information contained in these statements forms part of the Department of Building and Housing consolidated statements audited by Audit New Zealand.

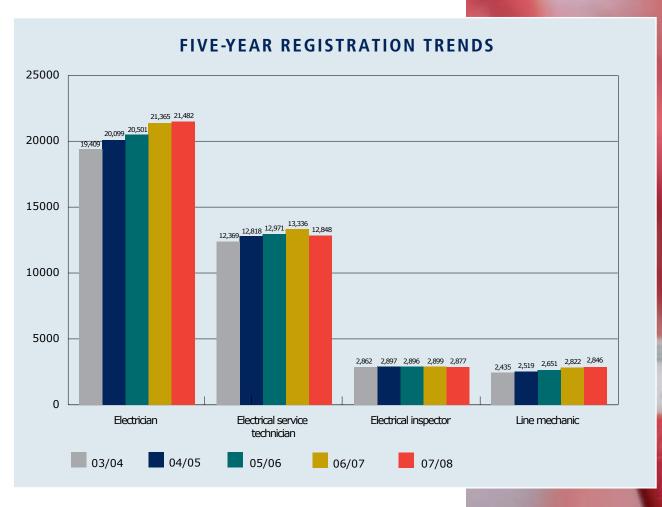
	Actual 2006/2007 \$000's	Actual 2007/2008 \$000's	Budget 2008/2009 \$000's
INCOME			
Practising Licences	1,871	1,943	1,950
Examination and Registration Fees	378	572	520
Sale of Publications	17	19	30
Certificates of Compliance	1,506	1,436	1,680
Miscellaneous Revenue	59	48	45
TOTALS	3,831	4,018	4,225
Personnel Operating Depreciation Capital Charge New Electrical Workers Register (Note 1) Support Services	632 1,873 3 20 0 520	723 1,974 4 0 0	773 2,191 0 0 230 975
TOTALS	3,048	3,340	4,169
MEMORANDUM ACCOUNT			
Opening Balance	1,795	2,578	3,209
Add Surplus/Deficit	783	626	692
CLOSING BALANCE	2,578	3,204	3,896

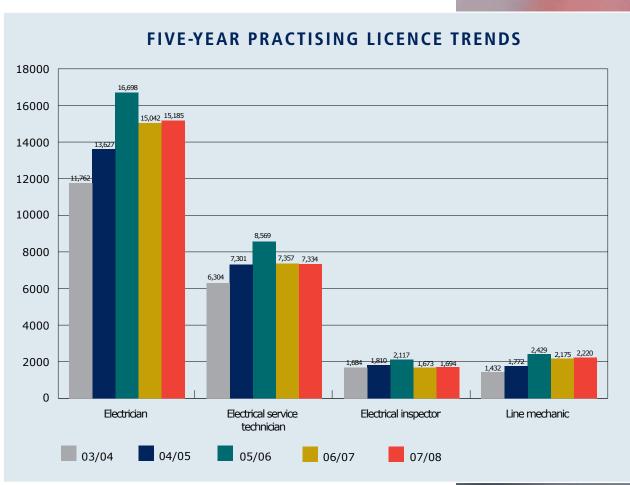
Note 1 Budgeted operating expenditure for 2008/2009 relevant to the development of a new electronic electrical workers register, to replace the existing electrical workers register hosted by the Ministry of Economics Development.



# **Statistics**

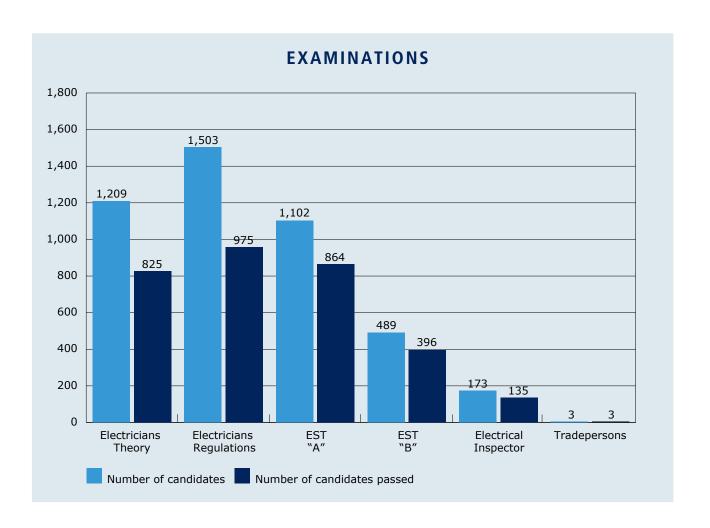
















# **Board Members**

Sam Ponga 1 Bernardine Hannan 2 Eddie Eeles 3 Don Pryde 4 Penny Mudford 5 Stephen Albrecht6 John Sickels 7 Tom Leong 8 Trish Tchernegovski 9



**Don Pryde**Registered and Presiding
Member, Dunedin

Don's career is in the electrical supply sector of the industry and he has served on the Electrical Apprenticeship Committee. He has been a member of the New Zealand Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union's National Council and is the Union's National President.



Sam Ponga Registered and Deputy Presiding Member, New Plymouth

Sam is a registered Electrical Inspector, Skills Assessor and Security Consultant from New Plymouth. He serves as President of the Central Region Electrical Inspectors Association and is Chief Judge of the ECANZ Challenge Electrical Apprentice of the year competition. Sam works as a Hazardous Area electrical inspector and has worked as an electrical contractor, electrical maintenance supervisor, control systems planner and technician, electrical fitter, and as a journeyman electrician. Sam served his electrical apprenticeship in Taranaki.



**Stephen Albrecht** Registered Member, Rangiora

Stephen is a Registered Engineering Associate and a registered Electrical Inspector with over 24 years experience in the electricity supply industry. He has broad knowledge of the electricity supply industry from his roles as compliance manager and operations manager with MainPower Contracting Ltd, and previous roles as project manager and senior test technician. Stephen is a current board member and vice president of the Electrical Safety Organisation.



**Tom Leong**Registered Member, Auckland

Tom is a Chartered professional engineer of NZ and UK and a registered Electrical Inspector with many years experience in the electrical supply industry. He has extensive knowledge of electrical legislation and industry training. Tom has worked with Standards New Zealand and the Electricity Engineers Association to advance safe and competent electrical work in New Zealand.



Eddie Eeles Registered Member, Auckland

Eddie is a registered Electrical Inspector who has worked in the electrical industry over forty years. His background in electrical contracting saw him as a Company Director, Past National President of ECANZ and a foundation Director of ETCO. Eddie was a member of the Northern Complaints Assessment Committee from 1993 to 2006 prior to his appointment to the Board; during that time he was also Presiding Member from 1993 to 1995 and 1998 to 2006.



**Penny Mudford**Laymember, Wellington

Penny is a rual arbitrator and accredited director specialising in conflict and dispute resolution. She is a Fellow Arbitrator of the Arbitrators and Mediators Institute of NZ and was chief executive of the institute from 2000–2007. She is a council member on the Veterinary Council of NZ and independent director of Fronde. From an agriculture background Penny has also sat on various agriculture industry committees.



Bernardine Hannan Lay Member, Auckland

Bernardine is from Auckland and was a sitting member of the Complaints Assessment Committee from 2003 to 2005 when she was appointed to the Board. Bernardine is a Disputes Tribunal Referee and does private mediation and facilitation work, mainly in the resource management consultation area. Bernardine was a tutor in criminal law at Auckland University and a staff solicitor with Auckland Crown Solicitors, Meredith Connell.





