



ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

ELECTRICAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD

C O N T E N T S

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Presiding Member's Report

It is with pleasure that the Electrical Workers Registration Board submit this sixteenth annual report.

The Board welcomed the appointment of Mr Shane Dolan, and farewelled Mr Stephen Albrecht whose term had expired. Our sincere thanks go to Stephen for his valuable contribution to the Board during his three year term. The appointment of Shane has resulted in a wide range of skills and industry experience being continuously available to the current Board.

The coming into effect on 1 April 2010 of the amendments to the Electricity Act 1992 and the Electricity Safety Regulations 2010 brought about considerable changes for the electrical industry. Amongst those changes was a fundamentally new approach to the setting of classes of registration and the issuing of practising licences. Areas that had previously been specified in the legislation were now subject to determinations of the Board made after consultation with the relevant parties. These changes have placed considerable additional demands on the Board and the supporting staff. This has been particularly so in the past year as the Board has worked to give effect to the new requirements. The Board recognises that the changes have been equally demanding on the individual practitioner. The Board appreciates the continuing support it receives from practitioners especially at a time of such change.

In September 2010 the Government announced the Gas and Electrical Certification and Fees Review. The Board, as the body responsible for administering the electrical certification regime, made submissions to the Reviewers. Earlier this year it was announced that as from 2013 there are to be significant changes to the way that electrical work is to be certified. The current Certificate of Compliance will no longer be required for most electrical work. The full details as to how electrical work will be certified in the future have yet to be determined. The changes, however, are likely to require the Board to review its approach to the auditing of electrical workers. The review of the Fees listed in the Electricity Safety Regulations 2010 has now been passed to the Board to make recommendations to the Minister.

Over the past two years the Board has worked closely with the Department of Building and Housing to develop an electronic register for electrical workers. That system is now largely up and running. The Board expects to be able to deliver better efficiencies to electrical workers as the number of practitioners completing their registration on line increases.

The Board was represented at industry conferences and field days including the ECANZ National Conference, Electrical Institute of NZ Conference, ESITO Field Day, and meetings with the ETITO, ESITO, to promote on-going trade training. During the year the Board finalised a Memorandum of Understanding with other Government Agencies that have responsibilities relating to electrical workers. The Board continues to liaise with the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board and other related Building Industry partners.

To the Deputy Presiding Member Penny Mudford and other Board members my sincere thanks for your support and valuable contribution during the year. The commitment and dedication required to be a member of this Board must be acknowledged. The Board has the responsibility for approximately 42,000 registered practitioners, with over 24,000 practising licenses, plus employer licenses, and also conducts and monitors registration examinations for almost 4000 candidates each year.

In closing the Board wishes to express their appreciation for the assistance provided by the Board's Registrar Mr John Sickles, Secretary Mrs Trish Tchernegovski, and the staff of the Electrical Workers Licensing Group.



Eddie Eeles

Presiding Member

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Eeles', written over a white background.

Registrar's Review

Output Agreement with Minister

The Minister for Building and Construction has an Output Agreement with the Board and that Agreement establishes Board performance and service delivery Measures.

The Agreement also enables the Minister to monitor the Board, and hold the Board responsible for its performance.

The Output Agreement contains seven Measures and those Measures are reported on as follows;

Strategy and Capability

| Expectation | Performance Measure | Output |
|---|---|--|
| Clear measurable strategic plan for the 2011/2012 reporting year. | Strategic plan updated by 30 December 2010. | The Board has updated its Strategic Plan in accordance with the measure. |

Governance

| Expectation | Performance Measure | Output |
|--|--|--|
| To register and licence in the ten classes of Board registrations. | To register all eligible applicants within 12 days of receipt of correctly completed applications for; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical Inspectors • Electricians • Electrical Engineers • Electrical Installers • Electrical Service Technicians • Electrical Appliance Servicepersons (endorsed) • Electrical Appliance Servicepersons • Associated Tradespersons • Line Mechanics • Cable Jointers | A total of 1,456 new registrations were issued as follows; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58 electrical inspector; • 875 electrician • 46 electrical engineer; • 7 electrical installers • 193 electrical service technician; • 14 electrical appliance service person (endorsed); • 134 electrical appliance service person; • 1 associated tradesperson; • 97 line mechanic; • 31 cable jointer; • 97% of the registrations were completed within 12 days of receipt. |
| To ensure registered persons maintain an adequate level of competency. | Projected volumes for 2010/2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6,500 audits completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 6,000 telephone audits – 50 provisional licence audits – 500 electrical audits • 22 training provider audits • 11,000 – 13,000 registrants who participated in practising licence refresher training. | A total of 6,375 audits were completed and that number is made up of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,766 telephone audits after 8,742 people were contacted; • 52 provisional licence audits; • 531 electrical audits which consisted of 490 and 41 from the certificate of compliance and complaint systems respectively; • 26 training provider audits completed. • 13,296 people completed practising licence refresher training. |

| Expectation | Performance Measure | Output |
|---|---|---|
| To identify licensed electrical workers who operate below industry standards. To exercise disciplinary power according to the Act and initiate prosecutions for contravention of the Act in cases where the Board considers appropriate | Hear and determine 80% of complaints within 18 weeks of receipt. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 71 complaints against registered persons were received • 28 disciplinary hearings were held • 62 complaints against non registered persons were received; • 15 prosecutions were instituted with 6 of them being derived from investigations carried out in the previous financial year. |
| Implement those amendments to the Electricity Act 1992 that relate to the Board as listed in the Electricity Amendment Act 2006. | Amendments implemented within six months of enactment. | As previously reported the Board had implemented all amendments in accordance with the measure with the exception of rules for employer licences. The employer licence rules have now been completed. |
| To set licensed electrical worker competency standards which achieve maximum public and worker safety with least impediment to industry. | Examinations reviewed after each examination round in May, June, September and November. | <p>Reports on all examinations at the time of this report were sent to stakeholders and the June 2011 examination report was being considered by the Board.</p> <p>The Board completed a full review of the June 2010 electrician level theoretical examination as there had been a disappointing 27% pass rate for that examination. A report on this examination is available for viewing on the Board's website and the report was sent to stakeholders.</p> |
| To encourage a positive behaviour change among non compliant electrical workers. | Raise profile of the registration and licensing regime through communications such as ELECTRON and publicity as well as appropriate disciplinary sanctions. | <p>The Board continued with its previously introduced communications strategy and in accordance with the strategy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • five issues of ELECTRON newsletter were sent to 43,000 people during the year; • full examination reports were sent to stakeholders. <p>Stakeholders were also sent discussion papers on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • competency programmes • employer licensing • training and registration of line mechanics • all examination reports and discussion papers were made available for viewing on the Board's website. |

The Board

The Board met thirteen times over thirty four days during the year. At the February meeting the Board re-elected Eddie Eeles and Penny Mudford to the respective positions of Presiding and Deputy Presiding Members.

In October the Minister for Building and Construction appointed Mr Shane Dolan to the Board and reappointed Ms Penny Mudford.

Electricity Act 1992 and Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010

With the introduction of Board Rules for the issuing of employer licences in April the Board completed the implementation of those amendments to the Act that related to the Board.

The Board provided comment and was represented at a workshop on the Government's review of the gas and electricity sector's certification review.

The Board has also participated in the Government's review of fees.

Memorandum of Understanding with other Government Agencies

The Board has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Labour, Department of Building and Housing, Ministry of Economic Development and the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board.

As previously reported the purpose of the Memorandum is to facilitate co-operation, communication and information sharing among the parties who are the agencies responsible for the discharge of regulatory responsibilities.

Review of the Standing Orders

The Board commenced a major review of the Standing Orders as one of its strategic projects and the review is due for completion during the second quarter of the 2011/2012 financial year.

Industry Partners

The Board has convened meetings with industry stakeholders to discuss new competency requirements and the training and registration of line mechanics.

The Board has met with representatives of the;

- Electrical Contractors Association of New Zealand;
- Electrical Safety Organisation;
- Electrotechnology Industry Training Organisation;
- Electricity Supply Industry Training Organisation;
- Electricity Engineers Association;
- Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board;

- Department of Building and Housing;
- Ministry of Economic Development.

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

The Board was also represented at meetings of the Australasia Electricity Regulators Advisory Committee and the establishment of the Australian National Occupational Licensing System.

Industry Organisations

The Board has continued its low risk audit strategy Agreements with the Electrical Contractors Association of New Zealand and the Appliance and Electronic Industry Association.

The Board's Agreement with Site Safe which ensures that electrical workers do not have to duplicate training for Board practising licences and Site Safe Passport cards has also been continued.

Standards New Zealand

A contract has been entered into with Standards New Zealand that enables the holders of Board practising licences and the holders of limited certificates to access the Standards New Zealand database through the internet to view, download and print the latest versions of electronic standards files.

The Board, in partnership with Standards New Zealand and the Ministry of Economic Development developed a DVD on the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010 to assist practitioners in understanding the requirements that were introduced in April 2010.

igovt logon services

In line with the Government's drive to implement an all-of-government approach to authentication the Board's online authentication method was replaced with the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) administered igovt logon service.

The igovt logon service is a shared Government service, which provides enhanced security for logon management, a standards-compliant solution and prevents agencies having to invest in ever-changing logon technology.

The igovt logon service enables people to have a single logon (username and password) to access Government online services and is privacy-protective.

Comments on Statistics

Complaints

Unregistered persons

As referenced in the Output Agreement section of this report sixty two complaints against unregistered people

were received. Of those complaints;

- nine prosecutions were instituted
- six warning letters were issued;
- two infringement notices were issued
- thirteen were referred to the registered person complaints process for consideration by the Registrar (after initial investigations concluded that a registered person was involved)

Also the Board agreed to take no further action on twenty three of the complaints while nine complaints remained under investigation.

Registered persons

- As referenced in the Output Agreement section of this report the Board held 28 disciplinary hearings;
- 21 of the hearings were derived from the now superseded Complaints Assessment Committees;
- 7 of the hearings were conducted under the prosecutorial model which was introduced with Amendments to the Act.

The Board also considered twenty eight Complaints Assessment Committee reports and a further forty three Investigator reports under the new prosecutorial model.

Registrations

There are a total of 42,321 registered people with 1,456 of those people being registered for the first time during the period under review.

The net increase of registered people for the year is 1,208.

Practising licences

A total of 24,924 practising licences were issued and this is a decrease of 493 on the previous year's total.

Certificates of compliance

The sales of certificates of compliance at 295,334 were consistent with the previous year's figure of 295,401.

Examinations

A total of 4,021 candidates attempted registration examinations during the year and 2,571 candidates (63%) passed.

The pass rate of 63% is down marginally on the previous year's figure of 67%.

The total number of candidates reduced by 507 over the previous year's figures.



John Sickels

Registrar

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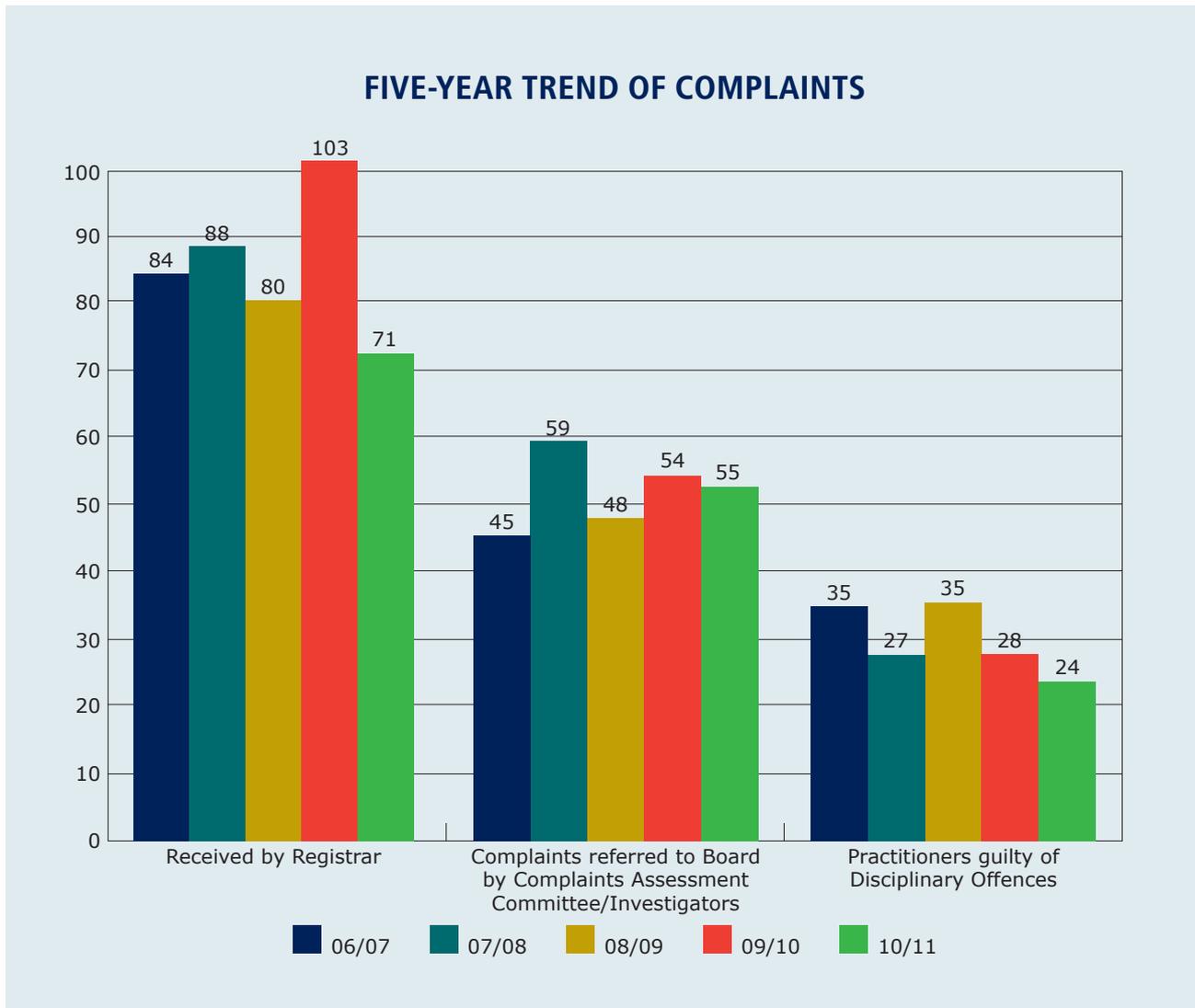


Board Financials

| | Actual 2009/2010 \$000's | Budget 2010/2011 \$000's | Actual 2010/2011 \$000's | Budget 2011/2012 \$000's |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| INCOME | | | | |
| Practising Licences | 1,983 | 1,943 | 1,867 | 1,945 |
| Examination and Registration Fees | 358 | 476 | 489 | 422 |
| Sale of Publications | 26 | 29 | 29 | 32 |
| Certificates of Compliance | 1,549 | 1,806 | 1,574 | 1,950 |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | 22 | 33 | 33 | 22 |
| TOTALS | 3,938 | 4,287 | 3,992 | 4,371 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| Personnel | 726 | 735 | 645 | 589 |
| Operating | 1,984 | 1,996 | 2,157 | 2,582 |
| Depreciation and Capital Charge | 41 | 192 | 208 | 171 |
| Support Services | 1,170 | 823 | 782 | 678 |
| TOTALS | 3,921 | 3,746 | 3,792 | 4,020 |
| MEMORANDUM ACCOUNT | | | | |
| Opening Balance | 3,617 | 3,634 | 3,634 | 3,834 |
| Add Surplus/Deficit | 17 | 541 | 200 | 351 |
| CLOSING BALANCE | 3,634 | 4,175 | 3,834 | 4,185 |

Source; Department of Building and Housing.

Statistics



Notes

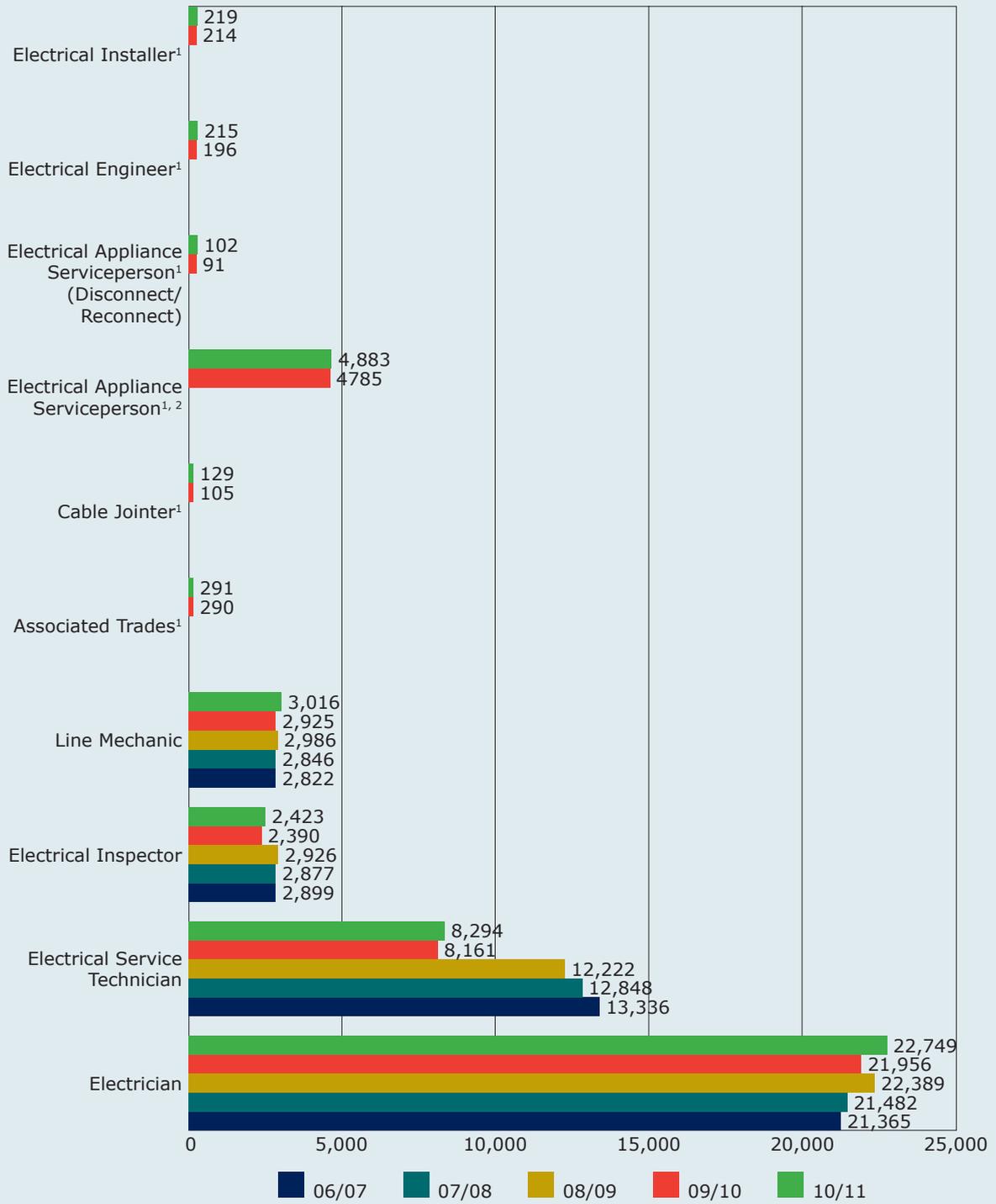
2010/2011

- 38 complaints still under investigation as at 30 June 2011
- 9 complaints still under consideration by the Board as at 30 June 2011
- All complaints referred to the Board include Yes/No Reports (Referrals to Board 2006 – 2010 include Yes Reports only).

Complaints referred to Board by Complaints Assessment Committee

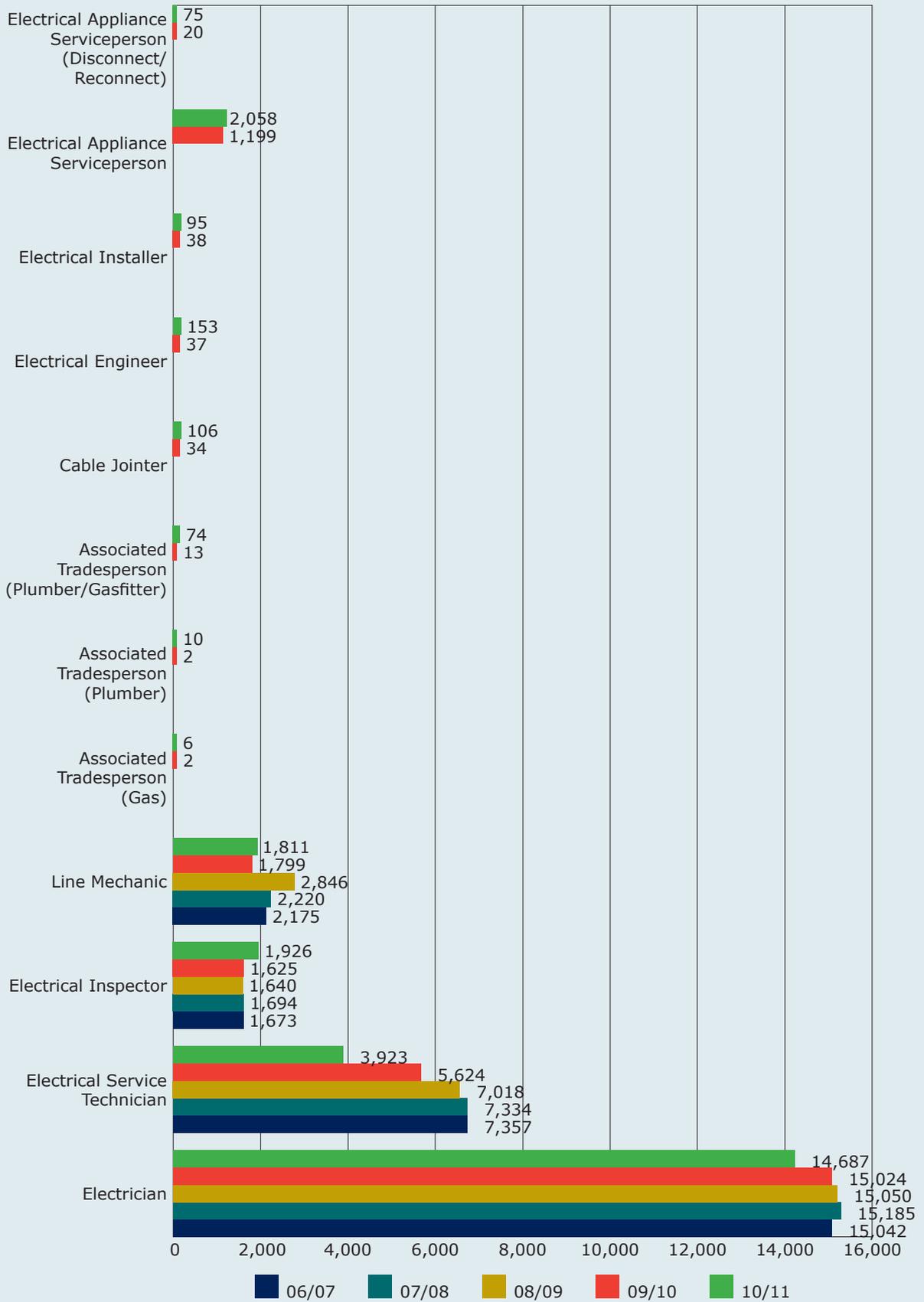
- The Complaints Assessment Committee ceased to exist in June 2010 with the commencement of the Electricity Amendment Act 2006.
- 2010/2011 complaints referred to the Board are complaints investigated by Department of Building and Housing Investigators as required by the Electricity Amendment Act 2006.

FIVE-YEAR REGISTRATION TRENDS

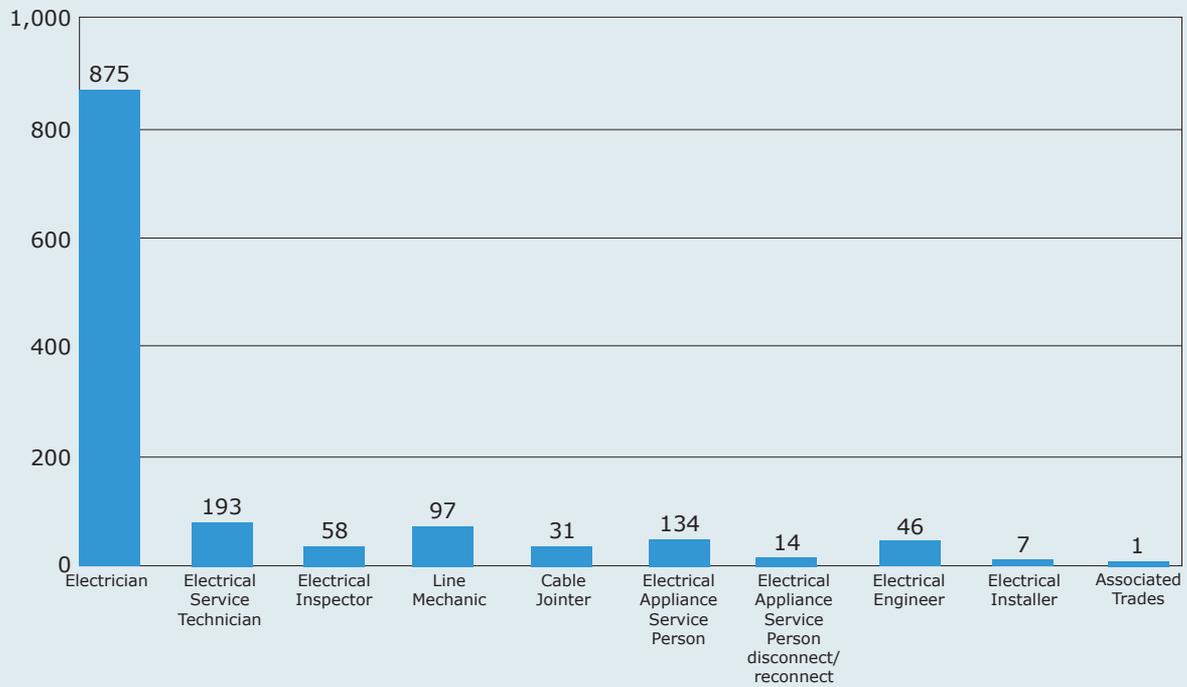


1. New classes of registration were introduced by the Board on 1 April 2010. Electrical workers who did not meet the criteria of existing registration classes were transitioned into new classes.
2. Balance transferred to Electrical Appliance Serviceperson

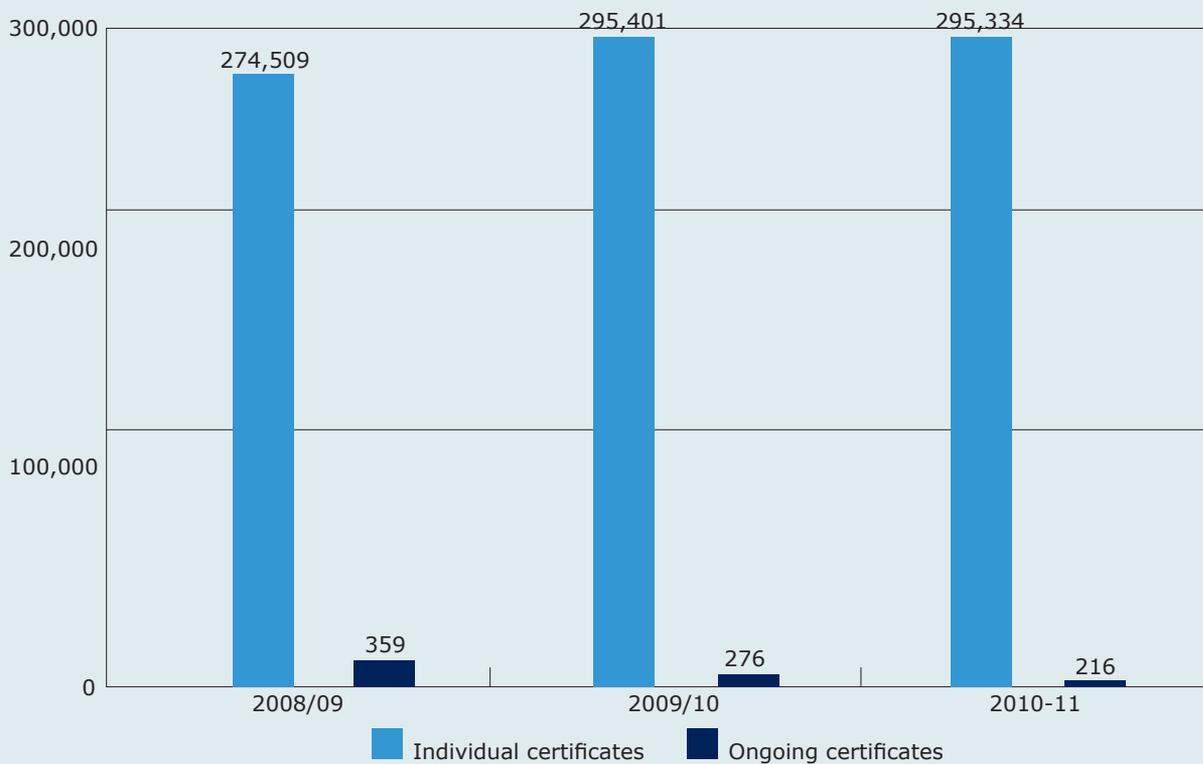
FIVE-YEAR PRACTISING LICENCE TRENDS



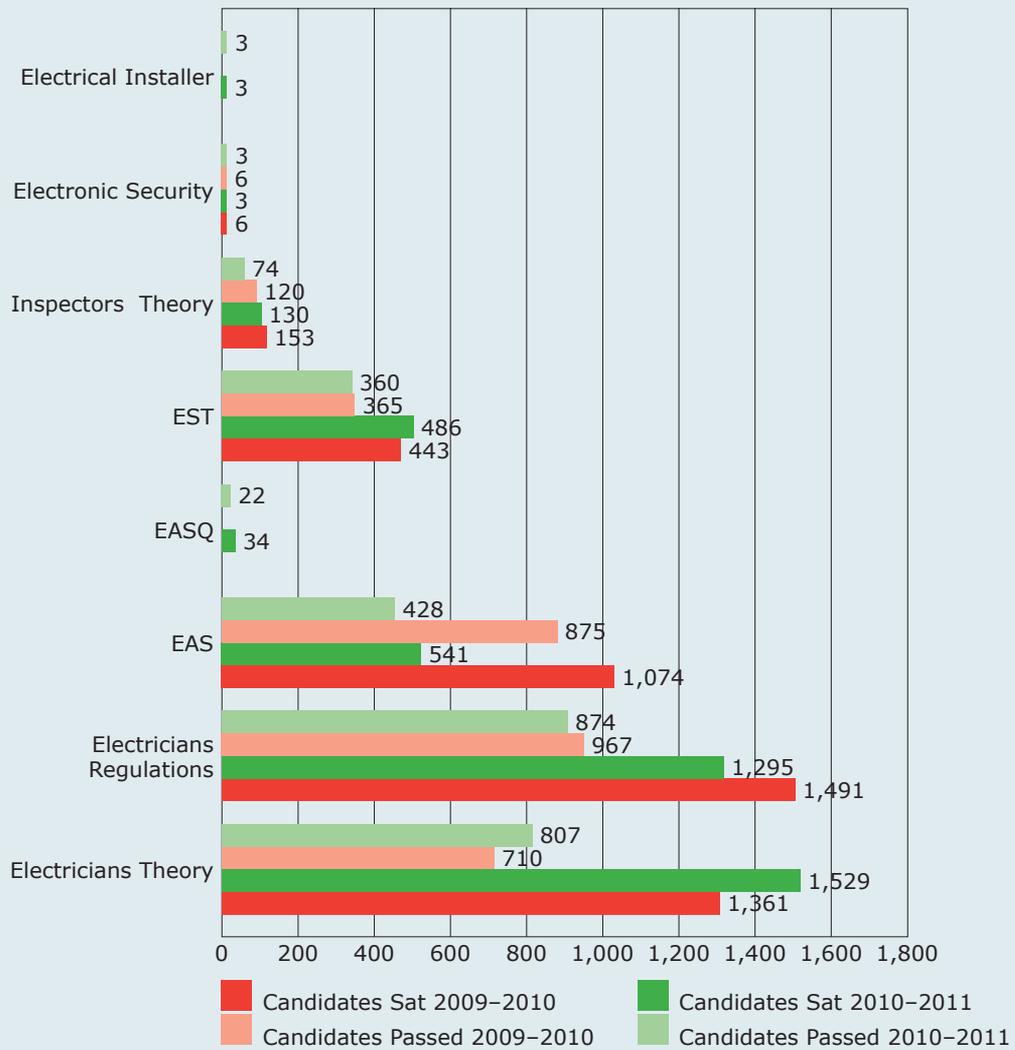
NUMBER OF NEW REGISTRATIONS JULY 2010 – JUNE 2011



CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE SALES THREE-YEAR TREND



EXAMINATIONS





From left: David Bradshaw, Stephen Albrecht, Eddie Eeles, Michael Macklin, Penny Mudford, Neil McLeod, Trish Tchernegovski – Board Secretary, John Sickels – Registrar.

Board Members



Eddie Eeles
Presiding Member

Mr Eeles is a registered electrical inspector who has worked in the electrical industry for over forty years. He has been a company director, a past national president of the Electrical Contractors Association of New Zealand and a founding director of the Electrical Training Company. Mr Eeles was appointed to the Board in 2006.



Penny Mudford
Deputy Presiding Member

Penny is a qualified arbitrator and runs a business specialising in conflict and dispute resolution. She is a Fellow of the Arbitrators and Mediators Institute of NZ and an accredited director of the Institute of Directors in NZ. Her current appointments include council member on the Veterinary Council of NZ, chairman of the Liquor Promotions Complaints Board, and independent chairman of a digital printing company. She has a background in agriculture and has sat on various agricultural industry committees. Penny was appointed to the Board in 2007.



Stephen Albrecht

Stephen is a Registered Engineering Associate and a registered electrical inspector with over 26 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 the safety and training manager at MainPower New Zealand Ltd and is a current board member and vice president of the Electrical Safety Organisation.



Neil McLeod

Mr McLeod is a self employed registered electrical contractor with a current knowledge of the electrical sector. He was a councillor on the Whangarei District Council from 1998 until 2005 serving on a number of committees including the judicial committee.



David Bradshaw

Mr Bradshaw was previously the director of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) from 1997 to 2007. Prior to this he was the Office Solicitor for the State Services Commission. Mr Bradshaw will bring a high level of understanding governance principles through his work with regulatory boards at the SFO along with strong disciplinary knowledge and expertise.



Michael Macklin

Mr Macklin is a registered electrician and is currently a Director for Bremca Industries, a company specializing in the design, engineering, manufacture and sales of electrical switchgear, automation systems and heating solutions. Mr Macklin has been previously employed as a Commercial Manager for a major Oil Company and prior to that as a Prosecutor for the New Zealand Police. He comes to the Board with broad experience in Electrical, Commercial and Disciplinary proceedings.



Shane Dolan

Shane runs a business that provides geographical information systems services to utility companies. He is a registered line mechanic with 23 years of experience in the electricity industry and holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree. Shane comes to the Board with expertise in establishing quality and safety systems and processes.





ELECTRICAL WORKERS
REGISTRATION BOARD

Safety • Competency

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