

Monday, 17 September 2007

## **Schools in for electrifying fun for Electricity Safety Week**

Primary students across Sydney, Central Coast and the Hunter will see how solar power works and create their own electric circuits to make motors run, light bulbs shine and magnets work as part of EnergyAustralia's education program for Electricity Safety Week (17-21 September).

This week more than 700 schools are expected to use EnergyAustralia's hands-on, curriculum based classroom kit, to help them learn how to stay safe around electricity.

The students will also compete for the best electrical safety design award, with the top four projects winning a free class trip to the Sydney Olympics Park Authority's solar powered classroom to learn about renewable energy.

EnergyAustralia's General Manager Network Geoff Lilliss said educating primary students about electrical safety was crucial to help prevent accidents down the track.

"Our research shows that more than half of all people gain their knowledge about electrical safety at school and it's important we keep up the momentum at this crucial age," Mr Lilliss said.

"We also know the so-called 'tweens' – children aged 8 to 13 years - can be a high risk group for exposure to electrical hazards as they begin to experiment with technology.

"What we teach children at school about electrical safety will help them now as well as carry them into adulthood."

"The electrical safety program also teaches children about the electricity network, including how substations, poles and wires transport electricity into our homes.

"Students will conduct experiments and build their own electrical projects to help them learn important lessons about staying safe around electricity in a fun and interactive way."

Mr Lilliss said the curriculum was developed with teachers and educators from the NSW Department of Education as part of the NSW Science and Technology K-6 syllabus.

As part of the Electricity Safety Week education program students will be able to:

- Design and build their own electrical safety project for entry into EnergyAustralia's awards
- Post photographs of their electrical design projects on EnergyAustralia's website
- Build an electrical alarm, make electric motors run and learn first hand how light bulbs work using a specially designed electrical kit for students
- Learn how the electricity network operates and how to stay safe around electricity
- Complete an on-line electrical safety quiz and receive a certificate.

Mr Lilliss said the classroom program is part of EnergyAustralia's \$1.8 million Electrical Safety Awareness Plan.

Information on electrical safety for students is available on the Kids Electrical Safety section of EnergyAustralia's website on [www.energy.com.au](http://www.energy.com.au)

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