

## Electrical incident – teacher injured while performing electrical work on a computer power supply

A teacher removed a power supply unit from a computer for the purpose of fixing it. While testing the live power supply unit the teacher's hand inadvertently touched a live wire, resulting in an electric shock that threw the teacher backwards. The teacher sustained injuries to the hand and presented with an uneven heart rate after the incident.

### Dangers of working live

Dangers of working on live electrical components are well documented. Over the past decade, there have been nine electrical deaths at workplaces where persons have been working on or near live electrical circuits.

### Electrical safety legislation

The *Electrical Safety Act 2002* (Qld) states that a person must not perform electrical work unless they hold an appropriate electrical work licence.

School staff are **not** to perform electrical work.

### Safety precautions

Where a school requires electrical work to be carried out on a computer or any other electrical equipment, a qualified electrician authorised by the school must be contracted to carry out the work.

Repair is rarely undertaken on current IT devices; advice can also be sought from IT support staff (Systems Technicians) about repair or replacement of devices.