



PROTECTING THE TRADE

ETU instrumental in developing New National Licensing System

A National Occupational Licensing System (NOLS) is being developed to remove licensing inconsistencies across state and territory borders and provide for a more mobile workforce. Licence holders will be able to perform work in any state or territory with a single national licence. Initially, four occupational areas will be covered by the NOLS: electrical, plumbing and gasfitting, refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics, and property occupations.

The new licensing system is due to start operating in 2012.

Interim Advisory Committees (IACs) have been created to provide licensing policy advice to the National Licensing Steering Committee which represents the interests of the Commonwealth and each of the State and Territory Governments.

National Secretary, Peter Tighe, is the union's representative on this Committee. The Electrical Occupations IAC (EOIAC) met throughout 2010 and 2011 to develop a series of proposals in relation to:

1. licence categories, scopes of work and licence types;
2. eligibility requirements, both skill based and non-skill based.

The ETU National Office continues to represent the interests of ETU members on the relevant advisory committees.

What about current licence holders?

To ensure that all current holders of state and territory licences continue to be able to do their current work, transitional arrangement will allow those licence holders to move into the new licensing system, with licence conditions if necessary. The details of these transitional arrangements are still being developed.

Further Information about the National Occupational Licensing System can be downloaded at www.nola.gov.au or contact the ETU National Office.