

6 March 2017

Working together for seniors' electrical safety

In conjunction with this week's NSW Seniors Festival, Essential Energy is encouraging seniors and their families to work together to minimise electrical hazards in homes.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said the festival served as a great reminder to assist or support our seniors in checking appliances around the home for wear and tear, frayed cords or loose connections.

"Sometimes having a second set of eyes look at the potential electrical risks in our homes can help pick up things we might have missed or have trouble accessing," David said.

"With the end of summer and cooler months on the horizon, there will be an increase in the use of heaters and electric blankets. Make sure these are in good working order and have them serviced by a qualified professional."

Don't overload power points or piggyback double adaptors and make sure there is enough space around computers and home entertainment equipment to prevent overheating.

"It pays to use clips to attach electrical cords to a skirting board or the floor to reduce the chance of someone tripping over them," David said.

"If you suspect an electrical appliance is faulty, don't take the risk – throw it out. Never try to fix electrical items yourself; it is dangerous and should only be done by a qualified electrical tradesperson."

Essential Energy recommends all homes be fitted with a safety switch such as a Residual Current Device (RCD) to disconnect power when a fault is detected to minimise the risk of an electric shock.

For more electrical safety tips, visit essentialenergy.com.au/safety or call Essential Energy on **13 23 91**.

The NSW Seniors Festival runs from 3-12 March 2017 under the theme of 'Let's do more together'.

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