



The Hon Chris Hartcher

Minister for Resources and Energy

Special Minister of State

Minister for the Central Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

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Safety lessons for 250,000 bright young sparks in NSW

Energy Minister Chris Hartcher today welcomed the start of Electricity Safety Week which will see more than 250,000 primary school students educated on the dangers posed by overloaded power points, fallen powerlines and substations.

The Electricity Safety Week program, designed to help children learn about electricity and how to be safe around it, will run from 5-9 September.

“Early education is the key to keeping children safe around electricity and essential to helping prevent electrical accidents in the future,” Mr Hartcher said.

Ausgrid developed the Electricity Safety Week program and has offered it to schools in Sydney, the Central Coast and the Hunter region for the past 10 years.

Endeavour Energy has been running the program for three years and in conjunction with Essential Energy, will this year offer the program to schools right across NSW making it the biggest yet.

More than 250,000 students across 2,200 primary schools have the opportunity to participate this year and 80 per cent of public, catholic and independent primary schools in NSW have already registered.

The 2011 Electricity Safety Week prize pack contains:

- **USB stick or DVD** – interactive whiteboard lessons for Years 5 and 6
- **Activity booklet** – activities for K-6 to engage students in Electricity Safety Week
- **Electricity safety posters and stickers** – to place in classrooms or around the school

“The three electricity distributors in our state take public safety seriously,” Mr Hartcher said.

“Last year, there were 1,185 electric shocks reported in homes and businesses across NSW. Education and awareness is the key to changing unsafe behaviour and reducing the risk of electric shock.”

More than one million students from NSW have taken part in the program since it began in 2002.

For more information visit www.ausgrid.com.au/learnelectricity.