**Electrical Sockets**

**April 2013**

**Issue/Incident**:

* A primary school student in a time out area received an electric shock when the student stuck a piece of wire in an electrical socket.

**Factors/Risks to Consider:**

* Students may have a fascination with electrical sockets;
* Students need to be adequately supervised;
* When electricity flows through conductive material such as electrical wire, heat is produced. It can shock, burn, damage nerves and internal organs and cause death.

**Recommendations:**

Schools should implement the following controls in relation to electrical sockets:

* Identify electricity hazards in the workplace’s [OHS Risk Register](http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/ohs/DEE_EHU_4-2-4_Risk_Register.xls) and document existing controls.
* Ensure that switch boards with Residual Current Device (RCD) installations are tested every 6 months.
* Ensure that electrical sockets are included in regular workplace inspections and documented in the [Workplace Inspection Checklist](http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/ohs/DEE_EHU-20-2-1_Workplace_Inspection_Checklists.xls).
* Consider retrofitting existing electrical sockets with newer sockets that have safety shutters and fitting this type of socket in any new buildings.
* Consider installing an electric socket plug cover for electrical outlets including a portable power board.
* Ensure students are adequately supervised

**Further Information:**

Further information can be obtained from DEECD’s [Health, Safety and WorkSafe](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/governance/Pages/healthworksafe.aspx) website or by contacting the DEECD OHS Advisory Service on **1300 074 715** or email[**safety@edumail.vic.gov.au**](mailto:safety@edumail.vic.gov.au)