

**Senate Enquiry on Federal Government Energy Efficient Homes Package (ceiling insulation)
Dept of Environment, Communications, and the Arts.
Submission to Senate
Parliament House
Canberra**

Firstly let me say that this Government Incentive has been very effective in creating awareness in the public for the need to insulate their home, in order to be more comfortable, and to save energy. I find it hard to believe that in a climate like Queensland's that this has not been mandatory during building, but can understand why, as primarily insulation was used to keep warmth in, used in cold countries and then in the colder states of Australia for this purpose. However in heightening the awareness of the public about insulation it has also made people look into what type of insulation works best for this very hot humid climate. As has already been submitted by Dr Aynsley, and by Horizon Energy Systems, bulk insulation holds heat in the ceiling space, the thicker it is the more heat it stores, and this is not what we want in Qld as this results air conditioners having to be run both day and night. Radiant Barrier Insulation (Reflective Foil Insulation) is the best alternative as it actually stops the radiant heat and cools down quickly, offering the home owner day time comfort and cooler evenings. Radiant Barrier insulation should also be used over existing bulk insulation in climates that suffer cold winters and extreme heat in summer (eg. Central Australia, Adelaide etc), and also in extremely fire prone areas due to its fire resistance.

I would like to challenge Master Electricians on their criticism of Aluminium Foil Insulation. We have not as yet seen any proven death of anyone due to touching live foil in a ceiling. No coroners report has been released around the death of the gentleman in question therefore no one should be jumping to conclusions on the details surrounding his death. Why the secrecy around this case? Could it be that Master Electricians are hiding something?

Master Electricians have stated that "ceiling spaces are dangerous places to work in". Why is this so? If correct standards were in place when electrical work was carried out in the first place then this would not be the case. We are constantly receiving feedback from our installers about the shoddy haphazard way that wiring is scattered around in ceiling spaces in Queensland, and a well known property investor has made it know to us, that when he buys a home in Queensland one of the first things he does is have the electrical wiring redone to a safe standard, and this is in relatively new homes so its not wear and tear. Why are standards so poor in Queensland that tradesmen and home owners should fear getting into their ceiling, and also why does Qld have the highest number of electrocutions in the country. I am not surprised that Master Electricians would like the scheme stopped as

their poor standards in Queensland are being uncovered. Perhaps we need an enquiry into this.

We at Silverline are convinced that this type of insulation is the safest form of insulation you can use, not only does it have a "0" ignitability rating but it has no dangerous fibres, no chemicals, and sits loosely over wires enabling them to stay cool and in tact. Silverline have been safely installing radiant barrier insulation for over 20 years and are members AFIA and HIA.

In closing I would like to suggest that more correct information be requested and studied by the Government department on Radiant Barrier Insulation, and that building inspectors be fully trained in this type of insulation, as it seems they know very little about it. They understand foil builders wrap and sarking, but when it comes to Radiant Barrier Insulation in ceilings they unfortunately become lost.

Thank You for your time.

**Regards
Peter and Elaine Venn
Silverline Insulation**