

# FACT SHEET 20: SCHOOL MAINTENANCE AND APPROVED CONTRACTORS

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P&C Associations often provide funding for the installation of covered outdoor learning areas (COLA) etc and maintenance and/or upgrade of school canteens.

P&C Associations and Principals may think they can get work done more cheaply and save the school some hard earned funds by engaging a local handyman or local contractor rather than using those approved by the Department of Education and Training.

While the motivation may be good, using an unapproved contractor is extremely risky – both for the Principal personally and for the Department.

Contractors approved by DET have been checked for:

- Child protection
- Safe working methods
- Workers Compensation insurance coverage
- Public Risk Liability insurance coverage
- Appropriate license and/or qualification to undertake the work.

School Principals take on specific responsibilities under legislation when they engage a contractor outside of the Asset Maintenance Contractor. For example, they would be regarded as the 'site controller' under OH&S legislation, and so would be personally responsible for safe working practices on site.