

## International Literacy Day

**8 September 2010**

Around 10,000 trainees in the industry training sector currently have literacy embedded into their training programmes, Industry Training Federation Executive Director Jeremy Baker said today.

Speaking on International Literacy Day, Mr Baker said Industry Training Organisations had focused on developing embedded literacy systems into their qualifications, especially at levels 1-3, as a way to improve literacy in the workforce.

“ITOs aim to progressively increase this over the next few years. As well as wider social benefits, we believe that this will improve completion rates among trainees and ultimately support improvements in workplace productivity.

“There is no doubt that this kind of work is essential. The last (2006) Adult Literacy and Lifeskills Survey (ALLs) estimated that there were 1.1 million New Zealanders with literacy skills below those needed to participate fully in a knowledge society. Of these, 800,000 were in the workforce.

“If we are to fulfil our vision for a skilled and productive New Zealand, then this is an issue we must tackle. I’m really proud of the work ITOs are doing in this area and confident that over the next few years, we will see some positive results from the investment,” Mr Baker said.

International Literacy Day is a UNESCO initiative aimed at highlighting the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies.

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*The Industry Training Federation is a voluntary membership organisation representing all of New Zealand’s 39 Industry Training Organisations.*