

## Good results but room for improvement

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Performance data published by the Government today shows that Industry Training Organisations (ITOs) are doing a good job but that there is definite room for improvement.

Industry Training Federation Executive Director Jeremy Baker said the data released through the Tertiary Education Commission stacked up well against results for similar programmes from polytechnics.

“You have to consider this data with the understanding that trainees are generally full-time workers and can therefore take longer to complete programmes. This is a particular issue for sectors where there is not a tradition of training and where the training is not a requirement of the job.

“There are also some weaknesses in the methodology which skew the results. For example the Real ITO (which has a 1% completion of programme in this data) introduced new programmes in 2009 which no trainee would have been expected to complete during the time period.”

Mr Baker said that while the data could not be usefully read by itself, it would provide benchmarks for future measurements.

“ITOs are involved in many initiatives that will help improve quality, standards and performance. In particular, they have recognised the huge literacy and numeracy needs among trainees and have a range of initiatives to support improvement in that area. They are also developing better qualifications and standards that help ensure the training is relevant to the trainee and the employer.

“While we want to continue to improve, this has to be seen in the context that ITOs are the most cost-effective part of the tertiary education and training system. It is considerably cheaper for the taxpayer to fund someone through industry training rather than university or polytechnics,” Mr Baker said.

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