The New Zealand Literacy Alliance

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Outline

• Key messages
• Background – adult literacy in NZ
• Why was the Literacy Alliance formed?
• Member organisations
• How do we work?
• Challenges
• Future directions
Key messages

1. The benefits of improved workforce literacy and numeracy are compelling.

2. The key forces affecting our economic growth compound the imperative to improve workforce literacy.

3. A high proportion of New Zealand’s workforce has low literacy.

4. The supply side for literacy provision is developing. There are considerable opportunities to accelerate workforce literacy and numeracy skill development.

5. Developing New Zealand’s workforce is a shared responsibility - a partnership between government, business, industry, unions and education and training providers is essential.
Literacy skill levels of New Zealanders aged 16-65 years

15% (405,000)
Level 4&5: High skills
Ability to read and interpret complex information and inferences

41% (1,100,000)
Level 3: Essential skills
Minimum level of literacy needed to meet all the everyday demands of modern work and life

44% (1,188,000)
Level 1&2: Low and very low skills
Ability to read straightforward documents; problems with complex, new or changing demands


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The guiding documents
Budget 2008 – literacy and numeracy

Budget 2008 provided $168 million over a four year period to raise workforce literacy and numeracy levels by progressively:

– increasing awareness of employers and employees about the importance of literacy and numeracy
– increasing the number of learning opportunities that include literacy and numeracy
– ensuring that these learning opportunities are high quality
– using a programme of research, monitoring and evaluation to build the evidence base
Capacity, capability and infrastructure

2008 - 2010

- Increase number of learning opportunities that include literacy and numeracy
- Capability building for providers and educators
- TEC builds infrastructure

2011

Significant increase in the number of learning opportunities which include literacy and numeracy delivered across the tertiary sector

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What resources do we have?

- Learning progressions
- Assessment tool
- Professional development and qualifications for trainers
- Theoretical framework resource
- Embedded guidelines resources (ITO, ITP and PTE)
- Website: http://literacyandnumeracyforadults.com
So why form a Literacy Alliance?
The Literacy Alliance vision

The vision of the Literacy Alliance for literacy, language and numeracy in Aotearoa/New Zealand is:

that organisational and teaching practices ensure evidence-based literacy, language and numeracy provision leading to successful learning outcomes that create social and economic impact.
English Language Partners
New Zealand (ELPNZ)
Industry Training Federation

Pacific Island Home Care Services Trust: Graduation Ceremony

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New Zealand Council of Trade Unions

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How do we work?

• Long history of working together in various combinations
• Need to build consensus and agree priorities
• Sharing of observations and outcomes
• Achievements to date
Challenges

• Changes in political and funding landscape
• Maintaining momentum
• Building scale and sustainability
Future directions

- Leadership
- Defining and understanding need
- Matching this with provision options
- Exploring balanced performance measures
- Focus on quality of provision
The Literacy Alliance is an organisation formed to engage about workforce literacy, language and numeracy provision and management.

The vision of the organisation for literacy, language and numeracy in Aotearoa/New Zealand is: "that organisational and teaching practices ensure evidence-based literacy, language and numeracy provision leading to successful learning outcomes that create social and economic impact".

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