

Assessor Connect

June 2022



Welcome

Kia ora and welcome to our second newsletter for 2022. Thank you to all who responded and took part in our **assessor survey**. The survey gave useful feedback about what is working effectively and areas we can work on to better support you. Read about the findings and our competition winner on page 2.

Professional development for assessors is a key area of support and we are running **regional workshops in July & August**, see page 3 for details.

Assessor moderation is an activity the Primary TITO is obligated to carry out. Our key stakeholders, such as the New Zealand Qualifications Authority and Workforce Development Councils expect us to quality-assure the competency decisions you make as our assessors, are sound and reliable and would be similar to other assessors presented with the same learner evidence. Our stakeholders also want to know our moderation systems and processes are working effectively and generating support and progressive improvement.



We rely upon a specialist team of 13 subject matter expert moderators, and the moderation reports they write for us highlight professional development needs, and any adjustments that should be made to assessment materials.

Finally, in this newsletter we introduce you to our **Learning Products Team** who write our learner guides and assessments and revise them to keep pace with unit standard version changes and evolving sector needs. Our moderation outcomes are often used in those changes.

Thanks for the continuing support you give to learners and the Academic Integrity team, it is greatly appreciated.

Ngā Mihi

Trevor Crozier - Academic Integrity Manager

Workforce Development Council Visits

Primary ITO recently welcomed seven members of the Muka Tanga WDC moderation team to our office in Wellington. A group of our field managers spoke with them so they could gain an understanding of the characteristics and needs of each of our sectors.



Eagle eyed readers may notice amongst the visiting group Lester Hoare, the previous ITO Quality Manager, who is now the Muka Tangata General Manager Quality Assurance.

The ITO enjoys a warm and collegial relationship with our associated Workforce Development Councils. If you would like to know more about these WDC's you can visit their websites below:

Muka Tangata <https://www.mukatangata.nz/>

(Agriculture, Apiculture, Horticulture, Seafood, Equine, Animal care Pest, Enchem)

Hanga Aro Rau <https://www.hangaarorau.nz/>

(Meat & Dairy Processing)

Ringa Hora <https://www.ringahora.nz/>

(Distribution)

Assessor Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who filled out the Assessor Survey. We really value receiving your feedback.

Congratulations to **our competition winner- Damien Ward** from Kintail Honey in Takapau - pictured here receiving his \$50 Prezzy card from Training Advisor Queen Ngahuka.



Survey Findings

40%

surveyed said this was their first year as an Assessor for Primary ITO while 33 % had been assessing for more than 4 years (*thank you for your ongoing commitment to learning*)

72%

said they had read our newsletter in the last 12 months and 95% found the content somewhat to extremely useful

54% of Assessors have also visited our website Assessor Pages in the last 12 months and 98% found the information on the website useful.

63%

of assessors who responded said they assessed between 1-5 learners each year

80%

of Assessors used verifiers in the workplace had between 1-5 verifiers in their company.

39%

surveyed said they had not visited the Assessor Page on our website. We would encourage those of you who haven't yet, to check it out - there is a lot of really helpful information there to support you. The [assessor pages](#) can be found Under the Employers Section of the Website.

This is what some of you said:

"Well done team. As you know communication is key, so newsletters and updates are important. This is my first year in my new work position"

"I would like one or two times a year, to attend a one-day refresher, sharing ideas with other assessors. Something that will challenge my skills and keep me fresh."

"The newsletter has great content and is engaging."

"I personally think the team is there when needed, just regular updates on upcoming changes, a heads up would be good."
"I feel I am supported enough."

"I think more catch ups would be useful"

"If I have any queries they will respond that is all I need"

Professional Development

We are running a series of face-to-face workshops around the country for Horticulture workplace assessors in July and August. There is also a July online workshop for Pest Assessors. This is a great opportunity to enhance your knowledge and skills around assessment practice. The workshops will be looking at assessment issues and challenges facing assessors including evidence gathering, writing Assessor/verifier comments and what is required for moderation.

Upcoming Workshop Events

Amenity, Landscape, Sports Turf & Production Horticulture Assessors	Tuesday 12 July	Auckland
Pest Assessors	Wednesday 13 July	Online
Viticulture Assessors	Monday 18 July	Blenheim
Arboriculture Assessors	Tuesday 26 July	Auckland
Arboriculture, Amenity, Landscape, Sports Turf Assessors	Tuesday 16 Aug	Oamaru
Horticulture Workplace Assessors (all)	Thursday 18 Aug	Cromwell
Arboriculture, Amenity, Landscape, Sports Turf Assessors	Tuesday 23 Aug	Rotorua
Arboriculture, Amenity, Landscape, Sports Turf Assessors	Tuesday 30 Aug	Hamilton

Invitations are being sent out to the above assessors in each region –but if you don't receive one, or would like more info- email Academic Integrity academic.integrity@primaryito.ac.nz

Those workshops not suitable for you?

You can also contact Alastair Gordon our assessor development specialist, if you would like individual support, or a workshop arranged for workplace assessors or verifiers in your company. Email Alastair.gordon@primaryito.ac.nz for more details.

Moderation Update

Quarter 2 moderation has seen the ITO concentrate on Meat Processing, Horticulture and Department of Corrections assessments.

A Horticulture Moderation Panel was held in May. We requested assessment samples from 100 amenity & landscape assessors for this event. A reminder: all assessors are obligated to participate in moderation activities when requested otherwise they may put their registration at risk.

Results of the Horticulture moderation have seen a compliance rate of 83% from 67 assessors, and 83% compliance rate of all moderation samples submitted.

COVID restrictions have prevented planned Corrections moderation clusters from taking place at the Prison sites, so postal moderation is being undertaken. Moderation of meat processing is still underway and will be reported in the next issue.

Warren Smith - Quality Adviser



Introducing our Learning Products Team

The Primary ITO Instructional Design Team creates and updates resources for our learners and assessors in primary industry sectors. These include Assessments, Assessor/Verifier Guides and Learner Guides. The Assessor/Verifier Guides ensure workplace assessors and verifiers have the guidance to correctly assess competency.

We currently have a team of **11 Instructional Designers** (IDs) who identify skill or knowledge gaps and develop resources and learning experiences to address these. At Primary ITO, our learning resources are developed as print resources or online via our Mahi Tahi learning management system.

As part of resource development, we ask industry Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to provide input, so resources reflect real world experiences and meet industry needs. Our team works closely with the Academic Integrity team to have all Assessments and Assessor/Verifier Guides quality assured.

The ID team regularly updates and improves learning resources to ensure these are fit for purpose. We welcome feedback from assessors and if you would like to do so then email: product@primary.ac.nz

Jo Gilbert - Instructional Designer Team Lead



Resources Update

NEW Video -Sending Assessments for moderation

We have developed a short video to help assessors know

What and **How** to send in documents for moderation.

Please take a couple of minutes to watch it [Here](#).



Writing Assessor/Verifier Comments

Not always sure what you need to write in the comments box on an assessment? Check out our recently written [Assessor/ Verifier Comments Tip Sheet](#) to help write comments that have meaning and give context for moderators.



New Guidebook Editions

These are available below on our website on the Assessors page under Employers or contact your Training Adviser for a copy.

[Best Practice Guidebook for Assessors Edition 3](#)
[Verifier handbook edition 2](#)

Connect with us! @ 🗨️ 📞

For general inquiries or feedback on our newsletter please contact the Academic Integrity Team.

NZQA Peer Review queries

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Nga Mihi from Trevor, Warren, Alastair, John, Wendy, Kelly & Kathleen