



Assessor Connect

September 2025

Welcome to our Spring newsletter, we have completed around three quarters of our moderation activities for the year including a very successful Horticulture moderation panel held at the end of August. Year to date over ten industry sectors have been moderated with an Assessor compliance rate of 92% and an overall sample compliance rate of 86%. It is pleasing to see a consistently good standard of assessment practice being demonstrated for most sectors. Our External moderation results with the Workforce Development Councils (WDC's) reflects this and currently sits at 89%. For more info on our moderation updates see page two.

We continue to hear more information about the changes underway in the vocational education sector, and the key points are listed below:

- Workforce Development Councils will be disestablished on December 31, 2025.
- Industry skills Boards (ISB's) will be established 1 Jan 2026.
- As of 1 January 2026, Primary ITO will no longer operate as a business division of Te Pūkenga. Instead, it will transition to a temporary business division of the Food and Fibre Industry Skills Board (ISB).
- During this period, we will remain under the ISB while industry consultation takes place on the future delivery of training for these sectors.

There will be no changes for Assessors and learners during this process and Primary ITO will continue to enrol learners and deliver programmes in the same way until future delivery decisions are made.

Ngā mihi

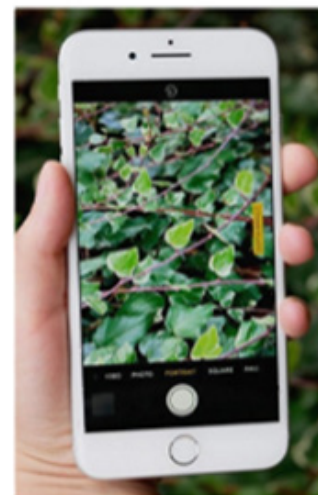
From the Quality Assurance Team

Labelling Photographic evidence

When sending in photos for moderation, it's important that photo evidence is labelled in a way that is easy to follow and is clearly referenced back to the relevant activities/questions in the assessment.

When photos are sent through without labels or context, our moderation team spends extra time trying to match them to the right part of the assessment. This can be confusing especially for assessments that rely on a lot of photographic evidence. In some cases, it can also affect the moderation outcome.

There are a number of simple ways to label and reference photos back to the related assessment activities/questions. We've put together some options to make this as straightforward as possible. [Click here](#) to view our Photo Evidence Document to find out the best way that works for your situation.



Moderation Update



The moderation team has seen a consistently good standard of assessment across many sectors in 2025.

Meat Processing, Dairy Processing and Livestock Farming sectors continue to have consistently high compliance rates.

Vehicles has seen a significant improvement with high compliance levels evident this year, and ENCHEM, Artificial Insemination, Irrigation and Hydrology and Animal Care all performed to expectations.

The Equine and Poultry sectors had mixed moderation results; improvement was needed to some equine assessment material (which has been addressed) and there has been a focus on improving assessor practice in the poultry sector.

Sports Turf continues to perform well, and the recent Horticulture Moderation panel held in August, found a consistently high compliance rate across all the horticulture sectors including Arboriculture, Amenity, Landscaping and Production Horticulture.

These results give industry confidence that assessors are making consistent decisions about learner competency and to the National Standard.

Apiculture, Seafood and Rural pest moderations are currently underway, and we will give you an update on those moderations in the next newsletter.



Anna England. Photo credit: NZPPI

Schools and Corrections

Moderation cluster groups have been held around the country from April and continuing through to October for Corrections and Schools assessors. These two groups continue to be very engaged in the cluster moderations and appreciate the opportunity for ongoing professional development.

While overall moderation outcomes remain positive, some recurring issues have been identified. Our assessor development specialist, Alastair Gordon will continue to work with these assessors in 2026 to address these which will help strengthen assessment practices and ensure alignment with moderation standards.

Assessor Support Sessions and workshops

Primary ITO professional development assessor and verifier support sessions continue online and around the country. Verifier and Assessor workshops were recently held for the Wellington City Council amenity and arboriculture staff, hosted by Alastair Gordon, our assessor development specialist. The day included group exercises, one of which involved observing and verifying a practical task being carried out. There was a good level of engagement with lively discussions around several topics, including managing and naming photo evidence.

For more information on our online professional development sessions and to register [click here](#)

If you would like a workshop arranged for workplace assessors or verifiers in your company or individual support, contact Alastair at Alastair.gordon@primaryito.ac.nz



Storing Learner Assessments

A reminder to **keep Learner assessments for 2 years**, stored in a safe and secure location. There have been instances recently where chemical spills and flooding have damaged assessments so that moderation was not possible. Please consider these and other potential hazards when selecting a place to store your learner assessments.

Help Us Update Our Records

Please email our Quality Assurance Team at quality@primaryito.ac.nz if:

- Your contact details or employer have changed
- You have recently achieved US 4098
- You are no longer assessing or do not wish to remain as an assessor.

Connect with us!

For general inquiries or feedback on our newsletter please contact the Quality Assurance Team.

Assessor Support

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Provider Assurance & Advisory Support

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Internal/External Moderation

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Assessor Registration /Moderation Support

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Ngā mihi nui

Hayley, Warren, Alastair, Kelly and Kathleen