

# Numeracy and Literacy in the Electrotechnology and Telecommunications Industries



**May 2009**

To help raise the skill levels in the electrotechnology and telecommunications industries, ETITO is launching a pilot programme where we'll be working with training providers to embed literacy teaching into the course material apprentices encounter in their off-job training. To inform this work, we're currently looking for companies interested in helping us identify the specific literacy skills someone needs to work efficiently in their industry. This work with companies will result in the creation of a number of 'literacy profiles' which we'll use in the development of embedded literacy within training provision, in the review of qualifications [particularly at level 2], and to assess the literacy requirements of Workplace Logbooks.

In this context, literacy means more than just reading and writing – it also includes listening, speaking, critical thinking, problem solving, numeracy and using communications technology. While it's easy for us to assume everyone has these skills, 42% of people employed in New Zealand businesses have numeracy or literacy skills below the minimum level required for optimal everyday work. An important concept here is 'coping strategies' – which are the ways people have learned to work around their literacy issues, rather than tackling the core issue itself. So it's easy to see the value that this project can add to the work we do with industry.

In the near future ETITO will be contacting a number of companies seeking participation in this project. The finished literacy profile will be made available to companies that participate – which is a great way of getting a snapshot of the exact literacy needs in your workplace. If you're interested in putting your name forward to help with this activity, contact Paul Hollings, ETITO Industry Training Manager – Electrotechnology and Telecommunications on 09 583 1320 or email [paulh@etito.co.nz](mailto:paulh@etito.co.nz).