

Making a connection with Corrections



November 2008

Last week 28 Prison Services assessors and a collection of ETITO staff converged at the Novotel Rotorua for the first ever ETITO and Prison Services Assessor Forum.

Designed to support the professional development of Prison Services' assessors, the two day forum included moderation best practice, an introduction to interviewing techniques and a surprise field trip to explore the similarities and differences of fellow GTE, the Fire Service Training Centre.

Ross Clarke, ETITO Industry Training Manager, says that aside from the obvious professional development benefits, the event has helped broaden and deepen the relationship between Prison Services and ETITO. "Holding a forum such as this acknowledges the long history the two organisations have and signifies a closer working relationship moving forward." Paul McCracken, Prison Services GTE Manager, concurs, saying, "There was a really strong focus on the connected, responsive urgent theme."

Steven Stockdale, assessor at Waikeria Prison, thought that overall the forum was extremely positive. "I am now far more aware of the involvement ETITO has with us, and I know that there's a commitment to our professional development too." And like all other forum attendees, Steve is now part of the newly formed assessor network.

The forum also provided the opportunity for ETITO to announce the sponsorship of a voice recorder for each assessor. The introduction of which will help ensure the assessment process and recording of evidence happens more smoothly.

ETITO is now looking forward to the opportunity to host a similar event in 2009.

