



Developments in 2010

Over the last two years PITO has undertaken some significant development work, firstly around revised qualifications and more latterly with new assessment material to support these. 2009 saw an intensive writing project which is now coming to a conclusion. Because of this we can finalise transition for trainees into the revised qualifications where it is appropriate for them to do so.

Providers offering our qualifications are also using PITO developed assessment material more extensively than they have in the past. This means that most technicians and assistants in training will be using common assessment material throughout the country.

In 2010 we plan to launch a series of initiatives to encourage more people into training and to provide more opportunities for those already trained to continue to develop their skills and knowledge.

These initiatives will provide pathways for support staff in pharmacies to access small modules which are relevant to their roles and will allow them to build credits on the NZQA framework which will count towards qualifications.

We will also launch a series of modules for already qualified technicians to gain credits on some of the new units developed for the revised qualifications. We are

currently developing e-learning modules which will be trialed over the next few weeks. Once the trial is complete we will begin to roll these out progressively over the course of the year. Check out the PITO website for regular updates.

As an ITO we are required to look at the literacy and numeracy requirements for our industry. We will be embarking on a project during the year which will gather information to identify where issues may exist within the current workforce. This will also look at how we can address any specific areas identified and how we can provide support to trainees.

Literacy and numeracy in this context refers to a wide range of skills needed by today's workforce. Literacy is the written and oral language people use in their everyday life and work; it includes reading, writing, speaking and listening. Skills in this area are essential for good communication, critical thinking and problem-solving in the workforce.

It will again be a busy year for PITO as we develop and implement these initiatives but as always we are keen to hear your feedback. Email us on info@pito.org.nz with your comments and suggestions.

Graduation Ceremonies

Over the last few years trainees who complete their training are being recognised by local regional Mayors in the form of Graduation Ceremonies. These ceremonies are designed to recognise the hard work completed by trainees and give them the opportunity to celebrate their achievement with their families. It is also an opportune time for the Mayors to formally thank employers for taking an active part in the creation of jobs and training in their region.

If you have completed your qualification within a year of the ceremony you will be eligible to attend. PITO will send notification to you requesting your permission to submit your details to the National Coordinator of the

graduation ceremonies. These details allow your regional Mayor to send you your invitation to attend a ceremony.

We have received positive feedback from graduates who have attended a ceremony. Those who have been in the past tell us of the sense of achievement they get from being formally recognised, the appreciation of being able to share their success with their families and friends, and of having an overall enjoyable evening.

We would like to encourage you to attend these ceremonies if you are eligible.

We are here to help

If you are completing a PITO assessment only programme and you are not sure about something please ask. You can either email Tina (tina@pito.org.nz) or phone her on 04 382 8058 and she will ask an assessor to contact you. When you first contact us it is helpful if you have the unit standard and question number handy,

as well as a contact number and an idea of the best times for the assessor to ring you. Whilst we will endeavour to get the assessor to phone you at the most convenient time for you, this may not always be possible as our assessors are all part time for PITO and have other work and family commitments.

