

Tui Tuia

Newsletter of Literacy Aotearoa

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Issue No 10 – Whiringa ā rangi (November) 2015

Ngā mihi mahana kia koutou katoa, Greetings to you all...

In this issue we continue to assess where we are at and where we want to be in meeting the mission of Literacy Aotearoa: to develop, promote and deliver accessible, quality literacy services designed to ensure the peoples of Aotearoa are critically literate and able to realise their full social, cultural and economic potential.

Learners remain the central focus as a new Poupou emerges from the West Coast of the South Island; we anticipate the results of the PIAAC survey (page 3) and, on the back page, look at resources that enable learners to have more control over the health information they receive.

Tūturu – Keeping it Real: He Tangata: West Coast Adult Learning Services

Towards merging – Rethinking delivery at the local level

“It’s the people,” says Trena, Manager of West Coast Adult Learning Services, the 'newest' Poupou for Literacy Aotearoa. Business on the West Coast of the South Island has been declining with the closure of major employers impacting further on the rural communities. In Westport more locals are seeking assistance to write their cv and job applications and gain HT licences to improve their chances of employment. In Greymouth the need is just as great.

This year Literacy Westland and Buller Adult Learning Services personnel met separately and together to consider the future. Reflections, deliberations and vigorous discussion focussed on what was best for the learners. At times the process was stressful, though staying focussed on the goal led to the decision to merge. As one Governance member said, “There might be differences of opinion but we will stand together as the people of the West Coast when it matters.”

National Office staff provided support and information in constitutional changes.

“They were great, they answered our questions and we needed guarantees that they would help with the merge to make it go ahead smoothly,” said Trena. “The help from the staff, governing body and national office was invaluable.”

The united West Coast Adult Learning Service brings Poupou personnel and governance together with a common desire to provide their communities greater access to LLN services. West Coast ALS will be a stronger entity that will allow for flexible and long term sustainability. Margaret Manuel, Governance member of Literacy Westland says, “We were here to fulfil a need in our community. With careful, clear communicating both parties agreed that a merge was the best way forward. I see exciting times ahead for our new Poupou and new leadership. Already progress is happening...”



West Coast ALS continued...

For the last few months Trena has been networking with social services in Greymouth. Those initial contacts, plus word of mouth, have almost inundated Te Poupou with more people than they can manage.

“We are grateful to have had the past three months to find our feet, network and meet more people down there and get established. The town is struggling, it’s quite remote, and people have to move for work. We are getting three or four referrals a week. We have made so much progress within a short space of time.”

Currently three people travel the long winding road to Greymouth each week to interview, assess, and work with learners. Increasing the number of qualified tutors will be vital to the success of the merger. Trena says she already has five people keen to take part in training in the New Year.

“It’s about the people. We are up for the challenge. 2016 looks very exciting for us. People in the community are so pleased.”



Congratulations to the leadership of each Governance Committee for seeing and taking the opportunity to forge a new direction to reach more potential learners on the West Coast.

Towards merging – rethinking delivery at the National level

Over the last few years Ngā Poupou personnel have heard, read, listened to or been part of conversations around the need to change the way we are delivering to ensure continued success. At the local level Ngā Poupou have experienced increased competition, changes to compliance requirements, employment and other legislative rules, as well as technological opportunities to enable greater access to learners.

As an organisation Literacy Aotearoa recognises that the amalgamation of Poupou is a positive opportunity for Ngā Poupou sustainability. Cost reduction is not the primary driver for mergers - bringing Poupou together is about developing the capacity to deliver improved outcomes for learners through more effective use of resources. If Poupou are considering a merger, the National Office has a range of roles including support, facilitation and co-ordination.

Investment for the future at Poupou and National level

A merger like this expresses confidence in the future of Ngā Poupou and Literacy Aotearoa as a whole.

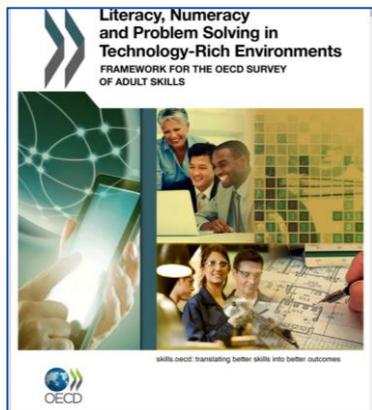
The following are key points that both Literacy Westland and Buller Adult Learning Services encountered and successfully worked through in the process:

- Are Poupou willing to confront the reality of changing circumstances and each ask the question: Can Te Poupou continue to provide a service to the community without changing?
- Create opportunities for each Governing Committee to come together, have open discussions and agree to the actions to move forward;
- Continue to communicate by keeping the common vision in focus;
- It takes approximately 6-8 months to complete constitutional amendments and wind up processes;
- It is both a governance and management responsibility to drive Poupou change;
- Flexibility is key both to plan for the new service, and to carry on with business as usual;
- Literacy Aotearoa National Office has a direct interest in the merger of Poupou and this interest will be expressed.
- Literacy Aotearoa is ready and able to assist in Poupou amalgamation exploration and implementation.

*PIAAC: What does it stand for?
Why is it important to our sector?*

**Programme for the
International Assessment
of Adult Competencies:**

*'The Survey of Adult Skills
is an international survey
conducted in 33 countries
as part of the Programme
for the International
Assessment of Adult
Competencies (PIAAC).'*
(OECD website)



In New Zealand the survey is referred to as the *International Survey of Adult Skills (ISAS)* and it follows two earlier International Surveys:

- [International Adult Literacy Survey \(IALS\)](#)
(1996, 24 countries)
- [Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey \(ALLS\)](#)
(2006, 12 countries)

According to the OECD the ISAS survey will directly assess literacy, numeracy, reading components and problem solving in technology-rich environments. It will also provide a range of background demographic data.

For more information please see:

<http://www.oecd.org/site/piaac/mainelementsofthesurveyofadultskills.htm>

There has been considerable interest in this survey as it will provide some comparative figures with the previous ALLS survey. Interest will focus on what gains have been made in that time following the Government Funding interventions over recent years.

The IALS and ALLS surveys have informed the developments of various Government strategies for Adult Literacy and it is expected that PIAAC will provide further data for future developments.

The conclusions drawn by David Earle (see next column) will be of considerable interest for future planning for literacy and numeracy provision and the contribution that Literacy Aotearoa can make.

PIAAC results will be available in Hōngongi (July) 2016.

*Updating the Adult and Literacy Life
Skills Survey: Estimating change in
skills distribution since 2006
(Education Counts)*

New Zealand is currently participating in Round 2 of PIAAC.

In preparation for the release of the PIAAC data the Ministry of Education has revised its estimates on the effect of population changes since 2006 on skills distribution and the impact of provision on New Zealander's literacy and numeracy skills.

The report contains the Ministry's predictions about the effect of population demographics on skills distribution and the impact of literacy and numeracy provision on New Zealand LLN levels. This report is recommended reading for anyone interested in PIAAC.

"This gives us an opportunity to trace the shift in skills in the eight years between the two surveys.

Our modelling finds that the changes in the age structure, education and other characteristics of the population since 2006 will have little to no overall effect on the distribution of skills. While there have been considerable shifts in the age structure and characteristics of the adult population, these are likely to cancel each other out in terms of effect on average numeracy and literacy skills. Shifts are more likely to be noticeable for specific sub groups."

David Earle, Ministry of Education.

Read the report:

<http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/80898/Updating-the-Adult-and-Literacy-Life-Skills-Survey>

Health Literacy in Aotearoa



Thanks to Workbase – Health Literacy for these links.

www.healthliteracy.org.nz

Let's PLAN for better care [NZ]

Four steps patients and their whānau can take for planning their next health care visit for an illness or injury.

- Prepare for your visit
- Listen and share
- Ask questions
- Note down what you need to do next



Resources to use with learners – types of questions that could be asked and a worksheet to plan your next visit to the doctor:

<http://www.open.hqsc.govt.nz/assets/Patient-Safety-Week/PR/PLAN-flyer-Oct-2014.pdf>

Health Navigator



Find out more about your health condition, common tests and procedures, or your medicines. Click on the A-Z to search. <http://www.healthnavigator.org.nz/>

Tip: Record your appointment

Ask your health professional if it is okay to record important instructions on your mobile phone.

Tip: Medical language

Did you know that most medical language is based on Latin and Greek words?

Here are some lists of what commonly used words mean.

<https://www.englishclub.com/english-for-work/medical.htm>

- Medical words
- Names for specialists
- Human body word list
- Human skeleton with names
- The heart with names
- The digestive system with names



Literacy Aotearoa
Choice Change Freedom

2015 Upcoming Events

Ngā Poupou Managers' Hui

Region One:

Thur 26 & Fri 27/11/15
@ National Office, Tāmaki Makaurau

Region Two:

Tues 24 & Wed 25/11/15
@ Wallaceville House, 2 Wallaceville Rd,
Upper Hutt 5018

Region Three:

Mon 30/11 & Tues 1/12/15
@ Ibis Hotel, 107 Hereford Street,
Christchurch 8011

Literacy Aotearoa Wellington celebrates Story week:

Story week is an initiative to encourage learners to share stories from their lives.



For more go to the Literacy Aotearoa Wellington Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Literacy-Aotearoa-Wellington-182535858449260/timeline/>