

7 January 2013

Dear Members

On 3 December 2012 Opportunity ITO merged with The Skills Organisation (formerly ETITO) a multi-industry ITO. The crane, scaffolding rigging, industrial rope access, and elevating work platform industries became part of the Specialist Trades division of the organisation.

Throughout the process the Opportunity Board was focussed on ensuring any merger would provide opportunities to enhance training quality and service levels for the industries, along with ensuring long term financial viability. The Opportunity ITO Board investigated several opportunities before deciding that merging with The Skills Organisation was best for the long-term interests of our industry.

The Skills Organisation industry coverage includes the electrotechnology, plumbing, drainlaying, gasfitting, roofing, telecommunications, security, offender management, financial services, contact centre, real estate, ambulance, state sector, and local government industries.

The merger will provide a range of increased services, including:

- Greater range of training delivery options and more negotiating power with training providers
- Field staff in more locations to support trainees and employers
- More staff working on qualifications development
- Increased ability to support trainees with literacy and numeracy
- More staff supporting school career advice and trade academy programmes
- More support for increased Maori and Pasifika participation
- Improved ability to influence Government and industry regulators

We are looking forward to working together and trust you are excited as we are as we look to the future. Our organisations have already spent time together to ensure a smooth transition from Opportunity Training to The Skills Organisation.

The Skills Organisation has been contacting employers, trainees and training providers to let them know of the change and what they can expect in the future. If you are interested in joining The Skills Organisation contacts database please email your name, organisation and contact details to info@skills.org.nz

Yours sincerely



Phil Tindle

CEO

Elevating Work Platform Association of NZ



Garry Fissenden

Chief Executive

The Skills Organisation