Invitation to participate in Youth Assessment trials - Can you assist?

We would like to invite your organisation to take part in a trial of new youth assessment materials developed as part of the Literacy and Numeracy for Adults Assessment Tool (the Assessment Tool). The online trial will take place in mid April-May 2014.

What are the Youth Assessments and what does the trial involve?

The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) has asked the New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER) to develop online computer adaptive reading and numeracy assessments that are engaging and relevant to late adolescent and young adult learners. This trial is the final stage of development work, prior to the official release of the Youth Assessment in July 2014. Organisations who participate in the trial will use the Assessment Tool to administer the new assessments to learners. NZCER will use the data collected to select the final pool of youth items and link them to the relevant reporting scales.

How do organisations get involved?

If your organisation would like to be involved, please click on the link below (or copy and paste it into your browser) and complete the following details:

https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form?EQBCT=b7a88177e511410d90a7e053903da4c6

- The name and contact details of a key contact for this work
- An estimate of the number of learners that could participate from your organisation (while there is a focus on learners aged 15-25 years, this trial is open to students of all ages).

Please note:

- The TEC have approved the trial Youth Assessments as valid replacements for the reading and numeracy Adult Assessments your learners may be required to sit.
- As this is a trial, the difficulty level of the Youth Assessment items will not have been finalised. During the trial interim results (scale scores and step levels) will be generated when each learner completes an assessment. Updated results will be provided to your organisation after the data from the trials have been analysed.
- We would encourage organisation to trial both the literacy and numeracy assessments, as appropriate. However, it is also possible just to trial one of these assessments.

If you agree to take part NZCER will email you in April with more information. If you have any questions, please email: assessforadults@nzcer.org.nz

Thank you for taking the time to consider this. Trialling questions is a key part of our quality assurance process and we would really value your contribution to this exciting new development.

Kind regards,

Sally Robertson and Ben Gardiner