

Falling through the gaps

**Marilyn Kell
Greensborough, Victoria**

Interviewing nine adults for my doctoral study indicates that because of literacy difficulties some knowledgeable, skilled and highly regarded workers do not access the training reflected in the National Framework. Indeed, the feeling is that training modules discriminate against them. For those who have attended workbased literacy classes and obtained certification (e.g. forklift or crane operation) prior to being made redundant, these new skills have failed to gain them new jobs. One who has been required to attend literacy classes provided by an RTO is being taught by a former nurse using a basal entry level approach to literacy instruction.

This situation raises three questions: Is workplace assessment too closely linked to measured literacy? Is the provision of literacy or other workbased modules correctly focussed? How do RTOs demonstrate that they are providing the best modern approaches to training?