



Media Release

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## Learning Nation Focus for Adult Learners' Week 2016

Adult educators will be on the streets during Adult Learners' Week/He Tangata Mātauranga, September 5-11, asking people what they would like to learn and recording their responses. The campaign called 'Learning Nation' will be a focus for this year's celebration. It acknowledges that lifelong learning is vital for a rich, rewarding life and worthy of a conversation.

Dr Jo Lake, Director of Adult and Community Education (ACE) Aotearoa says there is now solid evidence of a relationship between learning and mental agility as people age but adult learning is good for everyone. Adult learners of all ages and backgrounds report benefits like better self-esteem, greater tolerance, confidence and career prospects.

Dr Lake says the impact of technology in the workplace and the pace of change over the next decade means that adult learning will be vital for everyone. "As we see whole areas of work disappear, everyone, even those with high level skills, will need to be open to new learning. Aotearoa New Zealand needs to become a nation of learners to be able to compete globally."

Adult Learners' Week/He Tangata Mātauranga, celebrates all adult learning whether it's upskilling for a better job, preparing for further study, improving life skills or having fun. It is supported by the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO and incorporates International Literacy Day on September 8. Every year thousands of ACE providers, educators, learners and supporters organise a huge range of events to highlight the value of adult learning.

The Government priorities for Adult and Community Education (ACE) include literacy, numeracy, English language (ESOL), te Reo Māori and sign language. Providers all over New Zealand offer learning in these core areas and many others. Courses not eligible for funding are often run by volunteers.

**Adult Learners' Week/He Tangata Mātauranga is organised by ACE Aotearoa.**  
**For more information see the website [www.adultlearnersweek.org.nz](http://www.adultlearnersweek.org.nz) or contact**  
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