

**MEDIA RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2004**

*[In response to earlier story re Scarry Report interview with Hon John Tamihere]*

**INDUSTRY TRAINING IN GOOD SHAPE IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR**

The Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation [BCITO] is the largest construction related Industry Training Organisation [ITO], servicing over 6000 apprentices/trainees in our qualification areas – the bulk of whom are apprentice carpenters [for more information about the BCITO, visit our website – [www.bcito.org.nz](http://www.bcito.org.nz)].

Key points we want to respond to from Hon John Tamihere interview this morning:

- Apprenticeships within the building and construction sector have increased dramatically over the last 2 years – training volumes have effectively doubled over that time, rising to the BCITO now having 6000 trainees/apprentices [in training at any one time], and projected to achieve 7000 trainees by year end.
- We're working with the Government to continue lifting the importance and recognition of trade-based training & qualification programmes, to ensure we continue attracting the required number of people into the "hands-on" industries.
- The training process has developed significantly over the last 5-7 years, is competency based (rather than time served) – trainees and apprentices are assessed on their actual skills, and qualifications are granted based on those skills. The process ensures that people with BCITO qualifications have the right skills required by the industry.
- Industry licensing will further emphasise need for more people needing right skills, with licensing compulsory for certain trade areas by November 2009.
- Scarry Report focussed on a technical engineering issue in the commercial construction sector – as better discussed in subsequent interviews with IPENZ etc.
- We are confident that the suite of measures contained in the Building Act will remedy the leaky buildings issue over time.

The BCITO was set up following the changing of the Apprenticeship Act to the Industry Training Act in 1992, is the national body – recognised by the Government and appointed by the industry – to set the standards for qualifications and training for the sectors the ITO covers (carpentry, cement & concrete, floor & wall tiling, frame and truss manufacturing, interior systems, proprietary plaster cladding systems, solid plastering, and 'Health and Safety'). The BCITO is currently training over 6000 trainees in these areas.

**For further information please contact:**

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