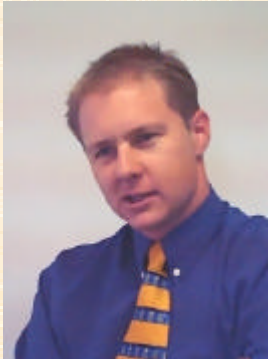


Making outcomes-based education work in South Africa



“Education and training in South Africa is increasingly well-funded, much of the money originating from international donors. But for donors to ensure their money is well spent, they need a mechanism to quality assure training and development” explains Mark Orpen, CEO of the Institute of People Development (IPD).

At present, accreditation of training providers is the only available assurance. However, although providers are accredited to deliver against National Qualifications Framework standards, funders have no guaranteed return on their investment, because learning is not industry-specific.

“International investors in local businesses want the staff to be competent in their specific workplaces,” observes Orpen. “Unfortunately, accredited training providers currently assess only in terms of unit standards. A gap therefore exists between acquiring job-related competence and the ability of training providers to deliver that desired result.”

The solution? Says Orpen, “Sector specific ETQAs must quality assure assessments across training providers through rigorous external moderation practices to ensure these providers are bridging this gap by integrating their assessments to include job-related outcomes.”

“IPD is not just a training provider. We facilitate the development of processes, systems and tools our clients need to achieve their education and training objectives through the delivery of accredited training programmes,” he concludes.

- Lisa Witpepsy