



The voice of business

## **SMALL BUSINESS UPDATE JUNE 2010**

As a member of EMAC you have a direct association with [Business NZ](#). Your subscription helps fund the work of Business NZ in representing business views to Government, promoting business interests through the media, and championing policies that encourage business growth and free enterprise. Here's an update on some of the things Business NZ has been doing on your behalf.

### **New ManufacturingNZ website taking business to next level**

ManufacturingNZ, a division of BusinessNZ, has developed a new website specifically designed to help NZ manufacturers to grow, develop and become more productive.

Officially launched on 7 July, the site offers a range of useful tools and resources, including a groundbreaking resource that allows businesses to tap into the R&D, knowledge and innovation that's happening in the country's polytechnics and universities.

Matching up Kiwi ingenuity with business prowess is key to raising our productivity and economic growth.

The website also offers assistance with benchmarking, technical insight, finance, IT, innovation, staff, skills, marketing and trade opportunities, and much more.

From 7 July you can explore the site for yourself at [www.manufacturingnz.org.nz](http://www.manufacturingnz.org.nz)

### **New tool for improving employee literacy skills**

In consultation with BusinessNZ, the Department of Labour has developed a new Skills Highway website as a practical resource for employers wanting to deal with low levels of reading, writing and communication within their workforce.

View the website at [www.skillshighway.co.nz](http://www.skillshighway.co.nz)

The website offers plain English, business-focused information, free tools and resources, and real stories from employers that have successfully run workplace literacy training.

The Department is also hosting a Foundation Skills Expo on 30 June in Christchurch at the Holiday Inn Avon. [Email](#) today to reserve a place. [Skills Highway](#) has more details.

### **Priceless Assistance for New Zealand's SMEs**

Small businesses are often challenged to find the time, guidance and advice to devote to marketing planning.

To relieve some of this pressure, the Marketing Association has just launched the SME Marketing Assistance Programme. It assists SME members with their annual marketing

planning process by way of regular, facilitated, free, one-day SME Marketing Assistance Programmes.

The Programme offers SMEs the opportunity to spend one day of their year learning about the latest developments in SME marketing and putting together a 12 month marketing plan.

You can find out more at

[http://www.marketing.org.nz/cms/Events\\_and\\_Training/6826](http://www.marketing.org.nz/cms/Events_and_Training/6826)

### **Making Tax Easier**

Following Budget 2010, the Government is seeking public feedback on proposed changes to simplify the tax system, including PAYE and income tax returns.

There's an online consultation forum and discussion document *Making Tax Easier*, that proposes several ways of making the tax system easier, faster, more efficient and more certain for tax payers.

BusinessNZ will be making a submission in due course. If you have any views please email Steve Summers, economist at BusinessNZ, at [ssummers@businessnz.org.nz](mailto:ssummers@businessnz.org.nz)

You are of course free to make your own submission. You can see full details, follow the discussion and comment online at [Making tax easier](http://www.ird.govt.nz/makingtaxeasier). [[www.ird.govt.nz/makingtaxeasier](http://www.ird.govt.nz/makingtaxeasier)].

You can also access the full [Discussion Document](http://www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz) [[www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz](http://www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz)].

### **Management Matters in New Zealand – how we measure up**

A new report by led by the London School of Economics and McKinsey and Co finds New Zealand Management in the manufacturing sector is middling to average by global standards.

However, our managers were found to be quite good at operational and performance management – including things such as modern manufacturing techniques, and efficient systems such as LEAN manufacturing.

The good news is that we can address the problem relatively easily. Investing in our people management skills is much less costly than increasing employee numbers or investing in new capital, and the productivity gains are significant.

You can view the report on the Ministry of Economic Development's [website](#).

BusinessNZ will be working with our regional EMA and Chamber partners to promote our wide range of people management courses and get this issue onto the radar of our local manufacturers.

Regards,

*Phil O'Reilly*



Phil O'Reilly is Chief Executive of Business NZ  
[www.businessnz.org.nz](http://www.businessnz.org.nz)