

Literacy and young people: What your organisation can do!



National Youth Mentoring Trust
September 11, 2013
www.cometauckland.org.nz

COMET Auckland

Advancing education for Auckland

- ✓ Independent Trust & Council CCO
- ✓ Analysis, advocacy & coordination
- ✓ Working with underserved communities
- ✓ Cradle to career and beyond

◦ Listen ◦ Learn ◦ Collaborate ◦ Connect

The low literacy pipeline

410,000

Aucklanders with low literacy

2,577

Young people left
Auckland schools
without NCEA L2, 2012

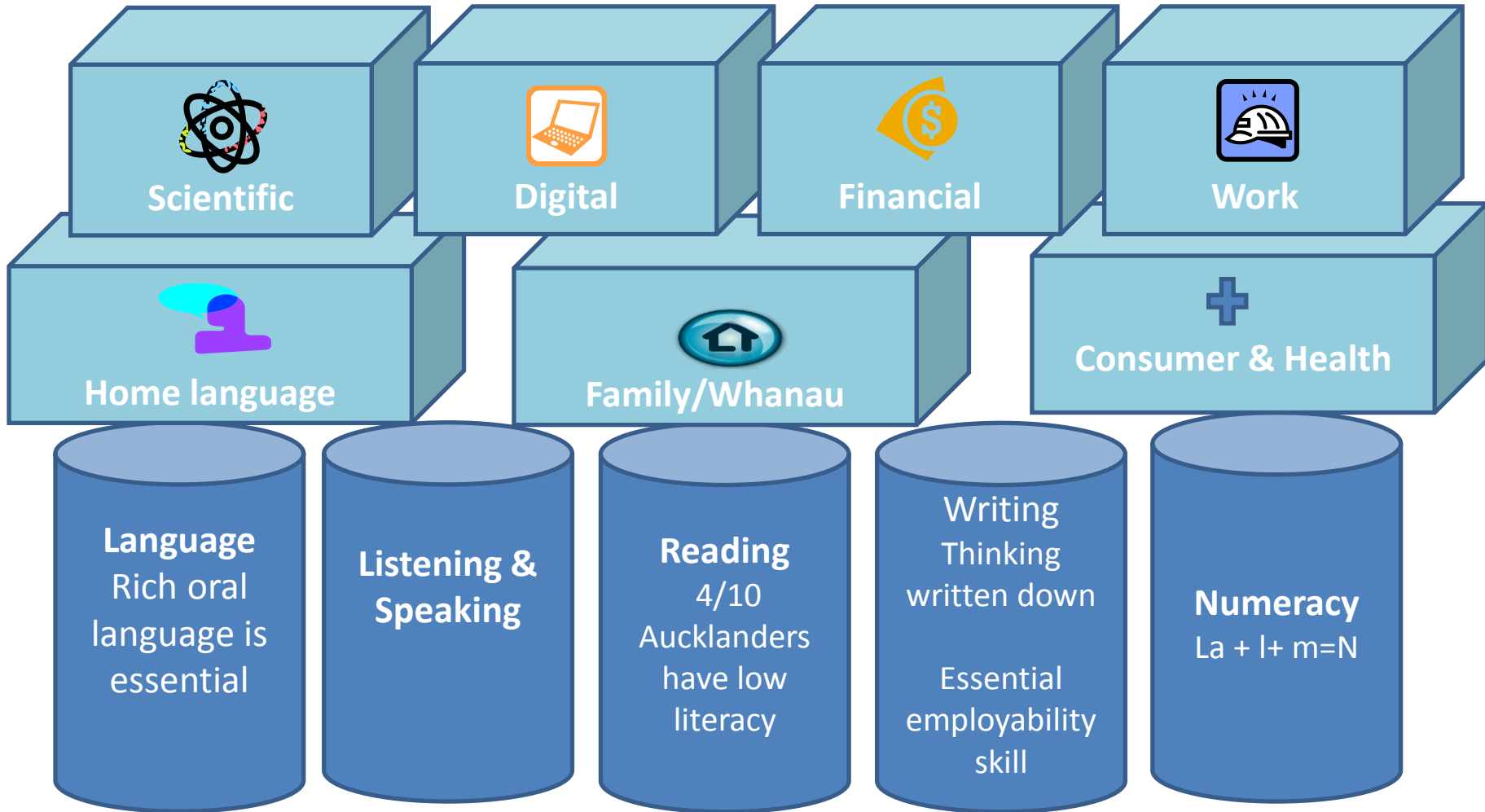
478,900

Aucklanders with low
numeracy

**72% boys &
80% girls**

pass NCEA literacy in Yr 11,
2011

The LITERACIES Landscape



Pre-literate-----Literate

Causes...?



- **Transience/low attendance**
- **Family issues**
- **Poverty & low SES**
- **Learning difficulties/developmental delays**
- **Poor health**
- **Not school ready**
- **Lost at school**

Looks like...

- **Never ask questions/don't participate**
- **Distracted and distracting**
- **Talkative but not on task**
- **Don't follow instructions**
- **Often say: "Reading is boring"**
- **No glasses, no volunteering, no participation**



**This is why
literacy is
your
business
too**

Options

Get around

✓ Embed in
your core
business

Literacy by
stealth

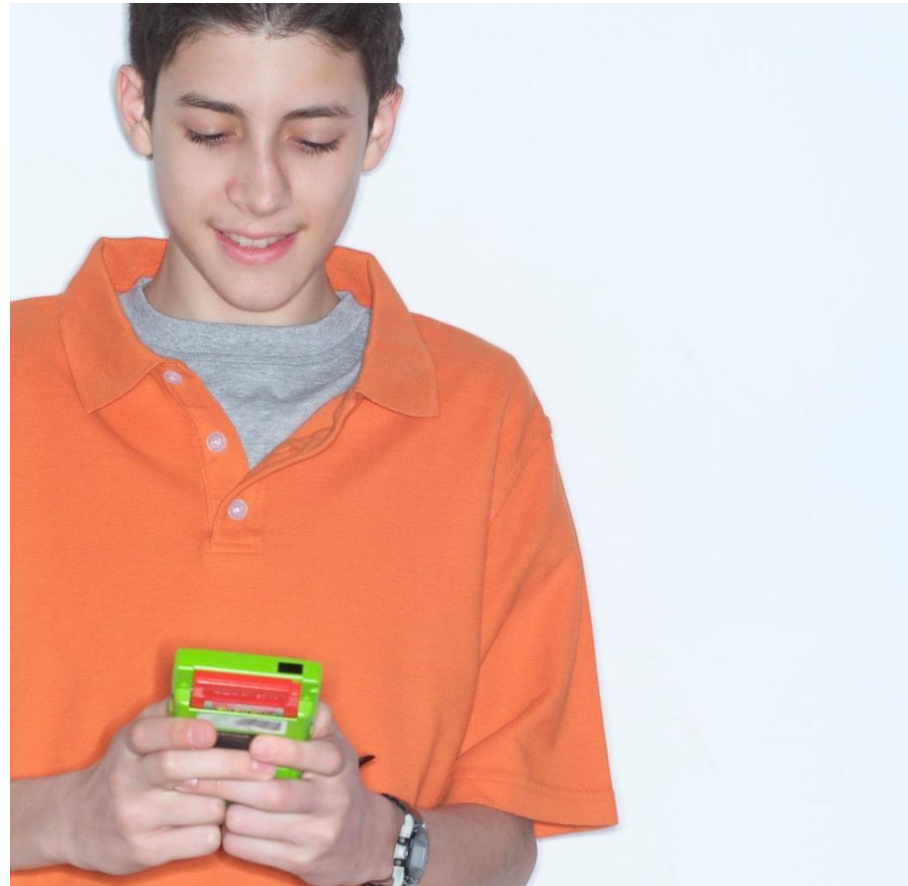
It's not just about reading

Literacy interwoven with:

- ✓ Anger management
- ✓ Problem solving
- ✓ Learning how to learn
- ✓ Metacognition



**Preparing young
people for work,
parenting and
citizenship and
exercising
citizenship rights**



**70% of transactions with
Government are going to be
online by 2017**

Rate your organisation

Literacy is a focus in our strategic plan

Usually

Sometimes

Hardly ever

Mentors are trained to identify literacy issues

Usually

Sometimes

Hardly ever

We collaborate with local literacy organisations and schools on literacy

Usually

Sometimes

Hardly ever

YP don't have to read and write with us

Usually

Sometimes

Hardly ever

YP improve their literacy while they are with us

Usually

Sometimes

Hardly ever

What can mentoring organisations do?

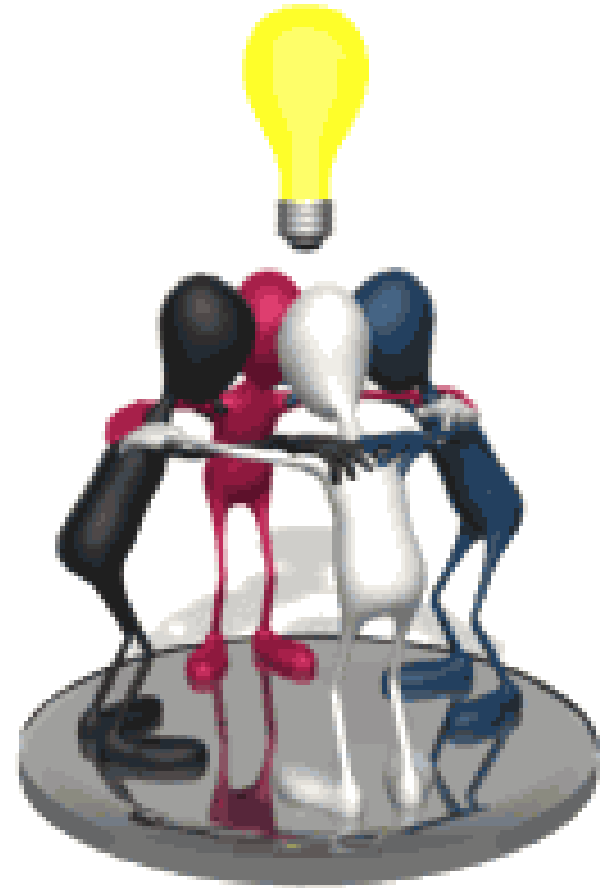


Actively build skills

- ✓ Build vocabulary
- ✓ Build skills talking to new people
- ✓ Reinforce that reading matters
- ✓ Showcase literacy
 - role models, story tellers, men



- ✓ **Focus on boys**
 - Use competitiveness...
 - Tuakana-Teina
 - Ako
- ✓ **Train 1-2 staff in literacy support**
- ✓ **Collaborate with local literacy expertise**



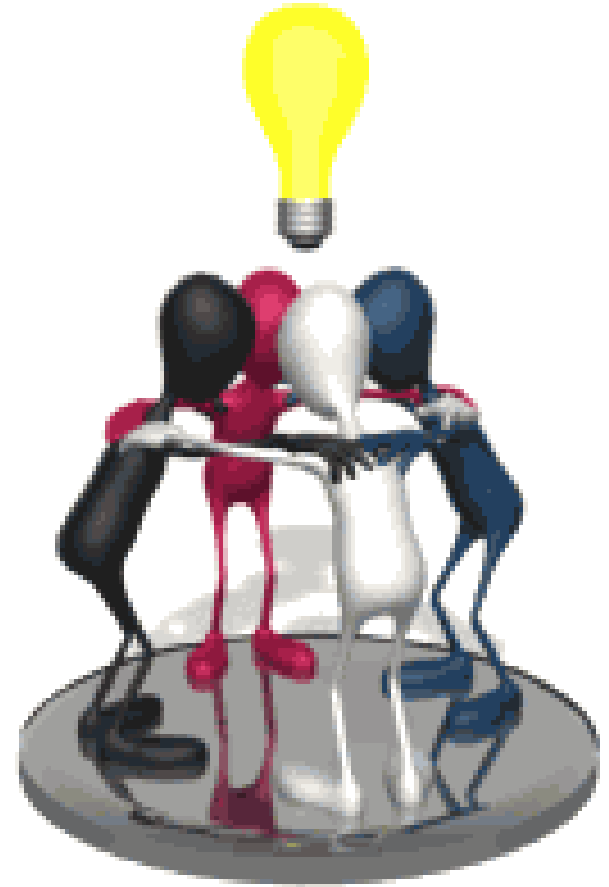
Tapping into digital natives

- Build in & on literacies young people using
 - Facebook
 - Blogging
 - Twitter
 - Texting
 - Email



Think strategically

- **Build into your work programme**
- **Partner with local organisations**
- **Become reading champions in your communities**



A beginning reader
is NOT a beginning thinker

References and resources

Engaging young people/young adults in literacy, language and numeracy skill development

<http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/research/youth-literacy-report/youth-literacy-report.pdf>

Youth Literacy in Canada:

<http://youthliteracy.ca/pages/challenges.html>

Boys 2 Books

<http://eddieconnor.com/boys2books>

Advancing education for Auckland



www.cometauckland.org.nz