

Assessing competency in a situated  
learning setting: a balancing act

# The case

- local qualification with three national qualifications embedded
- aimed at developing the competencies required for employment in radio broadcasting
- quasi-commercial radio station attached to programme
- enabled situated learning

# Situated learning

- learning occurs in the same context in which it is applied;
- co-constructed within a community of practice;
- embedded in a social and physical environment.
- Co-operative learning and “the zone of proximal development”.

(Lave and Wenger: 1991; Vygotsky: 1978)

# Assessing in a situated learning setting

- competency based, with assessment outcomes drawn from a set of industry developed unit standards;
- designed to take an integrated approach;
- aspects of assessment were negotiated in order to enable internal fairness;
- providing exemplars to the learners was critical.

# The balancing act

- Competing demands between:
  - the situated learning environment and learners as consumers;
  - programme design and institutional QMS;
  - competency based assessment and external agency reporting requirements.