

## Press release

**“Going back to education has inspired and empowered me,”**

**Tony Moloney, Cork**

National Adult Literacy Awareness Week 23 – 27 September 2013

National Adult Literacy Awareness Week will be celebrated nationwide from the 23 to the 27 September. The aim of the week is to raise awareness of the literacy issue in Ireland and inform people about the benefits of improving their reading, writing and numeracy skills. Currently there are 57,000 adults attending ETB\* literacy and numeracy courses nationwide. There are also thousands learning at home online and over the phone through the National Adult Literacy Agency’s distance learning service.

One such person is Tony Moloney from Youghal, County Cork. Like many people with literacy difficulties, Tony thought he was the only one. “I thought I was alone and that it was a shameful thing. If I ever had to deal with anything official, it hung over me like a huge fear in case I’d be asked to read,” he says. However, since attending adult education classes in Youghal, everything has changed. “Going back to education has inspired and empowered me,” says Tony. “I can’t praise the tutors in the Youghal Adult Education Centre enough, they’ve given me the confidence to try anything,” says Tony proudly.

“We would encourage anyone to call us on **1800 20 20 65** to find out about all the options available to them in their local ETB\* Adult Education Centre. We have people of all ages, from all backgrounds contacting us to improve their reading, writing and maths skills. Some will have left school confident about these skills but find that over the years they have got out of practice and need to brush up on them so they can do other things. Other people call us because they want to be able to help their children with their homework and need a little help getting started. Or often people want to have the confidence to write and send an email. Whatever the reason the benefits are always the same,” says Inez Bailey, Director, National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).

“Adult learning is a very different experience to school. You work at a pace that suits you and according to your interests and needs. There are no exams unless you want to get a qualification and if you do, we can help you with that too,” says Inez.

“At first I was terrified as I thought I was the only one with problems or that I was the worst,” says Tony. “But they’re amazing in the Adult Education Centre – they have this ability to put you instantly at ease, everyone is treated as an equal, there’s no them and us,” he says.

After a year and a half working with his tutor, Tony joined a group class with ten other adults. “It’s fantastic, we’ve been together two years and are now all on FETAC Level 3 at the moment – everyone has similar stories and is helping each other out – it’s great fun,” says Tony who has no problem encouraging others who have literacy difficulties. “Go and get help. Tuition is a great opportunity that has made a huge difference to my life.”

### **Don’t have time to attend a class but would like to learn at home?**

If you don’t have time to attend a class the National Adult Literacy Agency has a flexible distance learning service. You can work at your own pace, at home with our tutors on the phone to help you. If you have internet access you can even teach yourself and improve your skills on our interactive website **[www.writeon.ie](http://www.writeon.ie)**.

“Our distance learning service means you only learn what you need to learn. You can even apply to get a FETAC qualification for what you already know. Our friendly operators will tell you more about all the great options available to you so call or text us now – it’s completely free and confidential,” said Inez Bailey, Director, NALA.

**Freephone: 1800 20 20 65**

**Freetext: LEARN to 50050**

**Log on: [www.writeon.ie](http://www.writeon.ie)**

\* ETB stands for Education and Training Board. It is the new name for your local VEC.