

# Pete Shields

## Masterlink Apprentice Training Manager



I started my career in the New Zealand Police, serving small communities such as Taihape, Thames and Paeroa for 18 years.

After leaving the force, I completed a plumbing and gasfitting apprenticeship, becoming certified in all three disciplines. I set up a plumbing business in Paeroa, which employed up to five staff and trained apprentices.

From there, I moved into the training environment as a Tutor and Programme Leader for the Polytechnics. This has given me a thorough understanding of apprentice training.

I joined Masterlink in 2021 as their Business Development Manager, but my knowledge of apprentice training led me to work in conjunction with Waihanga Ara Rau – the Construction and Infrastructure Workforce Development Council – trialling workplace assessing for several Masterlink apprentices.

The success of our pilot scheme has led to workplace assessments being embedded into the new Level 4 Apprenticeship programme. This change enables apprentices in the final stages of their apprenticeship to have their knowledge assessed on site instead of being required to attend any remaining block courses.

Another major change is that I have become Masterlink's Apprentice Training Manager. In my new role, I work with national groups to improve the delivery and quality of New Zealand's plumbing, gasfitting, and drainlaying apprentice training programme.

Working with apprentices and host employers on the apprenticeship pathway is significant for me. Knowing that I have made a difference and ensuring apprentices can achieve Registration is the ultimate reward. There is simply nothing better to see an apprentice enjoy their training experiences and celebrate their success.

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"Peter came to assist our apprentices and obviously knew the territory. He gave the apprentices confidence that "we've got this" and then delivered as he said he would.

Pete approaches his work with enthusiasm, a great can-do attitude, and a solutions-based approach.

Whether it is a gentle nudge required to get tasks completed, or sorting things out at the admin end, Pete always get things done smoothly. He is very approachable both at a trainee and employer level.

Personally, I am impressed that we now have another excellent talent among the Masterlink team and look forward to working with Pete in the future."

**Mike Gooch, Director –  
EG Glennie & Co (1980) Ltd**