

hot shot KIM KELLY, director of the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation.



What does your job involve?

We are a national charity that ... teaches people how to read and write. My job is to oversee the management of the foundation, to seek funding and to promote the work.

How big are the problems of illiteracy and innumeracy?

We had [some media attention] about 10 years ago and from that story we had more than 3000 phone calls ... from people asking us for help. [They were] mainly teachers, parents ... people having horrific accidents at work because they couldn't read instructions or chemicals, young mothers having problems with giving incorrect medication to children because they couldn't

read medicine labels and people wanting to further their careers.

What drives your compassion?

I'm also a mother of four and I couldn't imagine [not being able] to educate my children the way I'd like to. I just think in this, this information-based world, that it's quite different to being an immigrant to Australia in the '50s. Unfortunately nowadays there is nothing you can do without basic literacy.

Do you enjoy your work?

Coming to work every day and being able to help people – there is nothing better.

Joshua Maule