



Department of
Education and Training

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING FOR CLASS A AND CLASS B QUALIFICATIONS

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1 POLICY STATEMENT

To be eligible for RPL for a Class A or Class B qualification, a candidate must have sufficient relevant experience. The RPL process involves recognising that the candidate has demonstrated that they are competent against the training package requirements for the AQF qualification. RTOs should be mindful that the process should not demand any more of candidates undertaking an RPL pathway than for those completing a Training Contract.

This policy **does not** apply to:

- candidates registered under a Contract of Training; and
- candidates enrolled in an institutional pathway.

2 BACKGROUND

RPL is an assessment process to determine the competencies a candidate may possess. RPL is both a state and national priority. The Western Australian Department of Education and Training has worked to remove barriers and open up RPL.

Prior to the *Training Legislation Amendment and Repeal Bill 2008*, the following arrangements were in place for non apprentice candidates seeking RPL for qualifications which required a Training Contract:

The candidate would enrol into the qualification and be assessed against the units of competency comprising the qualification. If they could demonstrate they had the requisite competencies, they would receive the qualification. Where only partial competence was demonstrated, they received a Statement of Attainment for those competencies.

Where gaps existed in the applicant's knowledge and skills, in order to acquire the missing competencies, applicants accessed gap training. Gap training options for the candidate were to:

- become indentured as an apprentice and enrol in units;
- return to work and develop skills in the course of their normal work. Candidates would then apply for RPL once skills and knowledge have been attained; and/or
- enrol in units and complete training.

Some applicants may not be employed or it may be the case that the workplace is not able to provide the training. Prior to 10 June 2009, applicants in this category were able to enrol in a unit/s of competency at an RTO to access the gap training without being in a Training Contract.

The Department has supported provision of gap training through funding eligible providers.

3 SCOPE

This policy will not undermine the integrity of the current apprenticeship system.

Compliance with the Australian Quality Training Framework is a fundamental requirement of all Recognition of Prior Learning processes.

4 DEFINITIONS

Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning involves the assessment of previously unrecognised skills and knowledge that an individual has achieved outside the formal education and training system.

Class A qualification

60C (3) The Minister must classify each prescribed VET qualification that it is possible to confer in respect of occupations, businesses, employments or trades into one of these 3 classes-

(a) class A qualifications, being qualifications that a person cannot obtain except by fulfilling the obligations of an apprentice under a training contract;

Class B qualification

60C (3) The Minister must classify each prescribed VET qualification that it is possible to confer in respect of occupations, businesses, employments or trades into one of these 3 classes-

(b) class B qualifications, being qualifications that a person may, but need not, obtain by fulfilling the obligations of an apprentice under a training contract;

Gap Training

Gap training is the training required to enable a candidate to acquire missing competencies in their skills and knowledge.

5 RELEVANT LEGISLATION OR AUTHORITY

Training Legislation Amendment and Repeal Bill 2008

VET (General) Regulations 2009

6 PROCEDURES

Registered Training Organisations eligible to offer RPL for Class A or class B qualifications

RTOs must have the AQF qualification listed on their scope of registration in order to offer RPL for a Class A or class B qualification.

RTOs that are actively involved in the training and assessment of apprentices and have established links with industry are best placed to undertake the RPL process for Class A or class B qualifications.

All RTOs must offer the RPL service for qualifications within their scope of registration (AQTF 2007 standard 1.5).

Granting the AQF qualification certificate

Achievement of a Class A or Class B qualification through the RPL process should be certified in accordance with the protocols in the Australian Qualification Framework Implementation Handbook 2007 (pages 73 – 76). The certification is silent on the pathway when the qualification is achieved through RPL.

The RTO will issue the AQF qualification.

If a candidate has not achieved a complete qualification they must receive a Statement of Attainment for units completed in accordance with the protocols in the Australian Qualification Framework Implementation Handbook 2007 (pages 73 – 76).

Options for gap training

RTOs will need to advise candidates on the best option/s for gap training. A candidate may be advised to:

- enter into a Training Contract with an employer;
- return to work and develop skills in the course of their normal work. Candidates would then re-apply for RPL once skills and knowledge has been attained; and/or
- enrol in units institutionally and complete training for the full qualification.

7 CONTACT INFORMATION

Information about RPL is available on the VETinfoNET website
www.vetinfo.net.det.wa.edu.au

Information relating to questions frequently asked by RPL candidates is available on the Career Development Centre website
www.det.wa.edu.au/training/cdc/rpl.htm

Information on RPL processes can be obtained by contacting Shelley Smailes at the Department of Education and Training, T: (08) 9264 4654; E: shelley.smailes@det.wa.edu.au