

Fact Sheet: Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

What is Recognition of Prior Learning?

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is an opportunity for students and job hunters to receive credit for relevant prior learning or experience, which will count towards a qualification. Registered Training Organisations (RTO), such as TAFE or private providers, can provide assessments.

The Australian Qualifications Framework Council (AQFC) defines Recognition of Prior Learning as:

“...an assessment process that involves assessment of an individual’s relevant prior learning (including formal, informal and non-formal learning) to determine the credit outcomes of an individual application for credit.” – AQFC, 2012

Who may be eligible for RPL?

Anyone may apply for RPL, however mature-age job seekers or existing workers with significant life and work experience are considered to be primary candidates for RPL.

How is RPL assessed?

Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) are able to provide RPL assessments.

To receive RPL, a student or job hunter’s prior learning or experience must relate to the learning outcomes of their chosen qualification.

A student or job hunter is able to apply for RPL by providing evidence of relevant prior learning and experience. This can be in the form of an assessment, or by compiling a portfolio of evidence.

The training provider will review the application, and make a decision based on the amount and relevance of prior learning and experience.

How much does RPL cost?

The cost of an RPL assessment may vary depending on the provider and qualification you are applying for. You may be eligible for government assistance.

The best way to determine the cost of an RPL assessment is to contact a training provider. Your local RTO will be able to offer advice on cost and eligibility for government funding.

Articulation and Credit Transfer

As well as applying for RPL, a student or job hunter may also receive credit through **Articulation** or a **Credit Transfer**.

Articulation involves combining credits from *different* qualifications that share similar learning outcomes. Articulation may combine qualifications from different training providers, as long as there is an agreement on the Articulation terms.

Credit Transfer occurs when a student or job hunter has received credits from a previous qualification that can count towards a new qualification, as long as the learning outcomes are the same.

What next?

If you believe you have relevant prior learning or experience and wish to apply for RPL, you should contact your local RTO.

Your local RTO will be able to discuss your eligibility for RPL, as well as opportunities for Articulation or Credit Transfers.

To find your local RTO, you can use a [Service Provider Search](#). Simply search by location and enter your suburb or post code to find your nearest RTO.