

## POLICY

## RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Responsibility of: Employment and Training Division  
Effective Date: 1 June 2007  
Next Review Date: 1 June 2008

DEET File: 2004/3081  
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## 1 POLICY

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is an integral component of the vocational education and training (VET) system in Australia. In the Northern Territory, RPL includes recognition of current competency; it does not include credit transfer.

RPL provides a mechanism for recognising skills and knowledge (competence) that a person already has, regardless of how, when or where the learning occurred.

### 1.1 Funded RPL

- 1.1.1 A Registered Training Organisation (RTO) that has a Resource Agreement with the Northern Territory Department of Employment, Education and Training (NT DEET) to deliver VET may utilise its allocated annual hours curriculum (AHC) for RPL under the General Recurrent Program at 100% of the nominal AHC rate. In some instances, such as for eligible existing workers, RPL may be allocated from AHC under the User Choice funding program.
- 1.1.2 An application may be made to NT DEET for RPL funding for specific activity related to strategic Northern Territory Government priorities. Refer to the [NT Build Skills policy](#).
- 1.1.3 RPL activity is to be reported through the RTO AVETMISS submission detailed in the Resource Agreement with NT DEET.

### 1.2 Unfunded RPL

- 1.2.1 An RTO may offer RPL on a fee-for-service basis.

## 2 BUSINESS NEED

To provide Territorians with the opportunity to have their informal learning or non-accredited training recognised and counted towards a national qualification or Statement of Attainment.

## 3 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Director, Training Branch, is responsible for developing and maintaining this policy.
- 3.2 Deputy Chief Executive, Employment and Training, is responsible for approving this policy.

#### 4 DEFINITIONS

*Recognition of prior learning (or RPL)*

The acknowledgement of a person's skills and knowledge acquired through previous training, work or life experience, which may be used to grant status or credit in a qualification, course, module or unit of competency.

*Recognition of current competencies (or RCC)*

The acknowledgement of competencies currently held by a person, acquired through training, work or life experience. More commonly known as recognition of prior learning.

*Credit transfer*

The granting of status or credit by an institution or training organisation to students for modules (subjects) or units of competency completed at the same or another institution or training organisation.

#### 5 RELATED POLICIES

The Recognition of Prior Learning policy will operate in conjunction with other relevant DEET policies, in particular:

[Apprenticeships and Traineeships](#)

[NT User Choice Funding Program](#)

[Build Skills](#)

#### 6 RELATED DOCUMENTS

*Australian Quality Training Framework: [Standards for Registered Training Organisations](#)  
[National Principles and Operational Guidelines for Recognition of Prior Learning \(RPL\)](#):*

#### 7 REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually.

#### 8 PROCEDURES

##### 8.1 Registered Training Organisations

An RTO must have scope to assess the qualifications/courses as registered on the National Training Information Service.

An RTO must comply with Standard 8, particularly 8.2 of the *Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF): Standards for Registered Training Organisations*.

##### 8.2 Quality

An RTO must comply with the *Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF): Standards for Registered Training Organisations*.

RPL activity will be monitored through the AVETMISS submissions and analysis of early completions of apprentices and trainees.

An RTO will be audited for RPL activity under the AQTF.

JOHN HASSED  
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

June 2007