

# Recognition of Prior Learning



## Gain credit for your skills, knowledge and experience

### Are you an experienced veterinary nurse looking to gain the latest qualification?

AIRC's RPL program offers the opportunity for veterinary nurses who have industry experience and expertise, to achieve all or part of an Australian nationally recognised qualification, through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

RPL is a process for giving you credit for skills, knowledge and experience gained through working and learning. We understand that you might have gained valuable skills in paid or unpaid work, and in activities such as informal training. The RPL process requires you to be actively involved by gathering evidence and participating in discussions and/or practical demonstrations with an AIRC assessor.

AIRC will tailor the RPL process to match your specific experiences and qualifications. Evidence collection methods are thorough, yet readily achievable.

### Do you have other qualifications?

If you have an older or international veterinary nursing qualification these can be used towards the current Australian nationally recognised veterinary nurse qualification (ACM40418 Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing). If you have units from other Australian qualifications (for example in business or training) these may be able to be used towards your qualification as well.

### Entry requirements

To be eligible to undertake the RPL process you should have several years of industry experience in all aspects of veterinary nursing, across a range of species, with or without a veterinary nursing qualification.

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# RPL: How does the process work?

The RPL process has been designed to be streamlined to gather detailed evidence that assures you of a qualification you deserve.

## Initial enquiry

- ❖ Call to discuss the possibility of gaining your qualification through the Recognition of Prior Learning.
- ❖ Speak with an AIRC team member who will ask about your work details and any past qualifications.
- ❖ Based on the conversation and information provided decide if you want to explore the possibility of RPL further.
- ❖ Pay a \$500 Initial Assessment Fee and complete a Self Assessment.

## Step 1: Initial Interview followed by self-evaluation

- ❖ Initial Interview with your designated assessor. This may be by phone or live video.
- ❖ Your assessor will review your relevant experience, any work related documents and evidence of formal training to see what credits you have and start to plan out what evidence you could assemble for RPL.
- ❖ Based on what you have told us and the documents provided, your assessor will give you an honest opinion on whether you are likely or unlikely to achieve RPL in any or all of the units.
- ❖ The assessor advises you of the price to complete RPL or a mix of RPL for some units and full study for others.
- ❖ If you decide to proceed you complete an enrolment form and make payment for the course.
- ❖ The assessor completes an RPL Plan with you.

## Step 2: Third party reporting

- ❖ Your assessor might need to confirm a particular aspect of your workplace performance. If so, they could ask a person in your workplace to complete a Third Party Report on that aspect. Your assessor will then consider the evidence provided.

## Step 3: Competency conversations

- ❖ This involves a number of detailed conversations where your assessor will ask you questions and give you scenarios to respond to that are related to workplace tasks and units of competency. You discuss examples of your work, and the principles, knowledge and theories that guide you in that work.

## Step 4: Workplace assessment tasks

- ❖ For areas that need more evidence, your assessor will advise you which practical tasks are required. You will receive a set of instructions setting out the requirements for the tasks, and listing the units involved.
- ❖ Your assessor will either visit your workplace or arrange to observe you via video link.
- ❖ Your assessor will consider your performance of the tasks and advise you on any further steps that are required.

## Step 5: Finalising the RPL documentation

- ❖ If you are assessed as 'Competent' for all the units required for the qualification, AIRC will issue you with the qualification.
- ❖ If you are assessed as 'Not Yet Competent' in some of the units required for the qualification, AIRC will issue you with a *Statement of Attainment* listing the units attained. In that case, your assessor will advise you on your options. These could include undertaking formal training and being reassessed.

## Find out more:

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