



## Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

# Occupational Licensing Changes Recognition of Prior Learning Fact Sheet 6

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) is recognition of previous learning or skills obtained from formal study or work/life experience.

RPL is allowed under the Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) courses for the skill and knowledge formation only. The Registered Training Organisation (RTO) is still required to submit a person to a challenge test (using the nominated assessment instruments) before a Statement of Attainment can be issued. The issuance of an assessment summary after successful completion of the challenge test is required – this is a requisite document for a person to obtain a workplace health and safety licence.

RPL may be used in instances where the workplace has commenced a person in training and wishes to engage the RTO part way through the training process. However, it is important for both the RTO and workplace to realise that the RPL process will require a full evaluation against the training course for skill and knowledge formation. Therefore, it is imperative that the training undertaken by the trainee maps to the relevant course, is fully documented in the training plan, and is supported by evidence such as a log book. Failure to do this will require the trainee to submit to further training to fill any gaps identified in the RTO RPL evaluation.

RTOs must not apply an automatic RPL for the skill and knowledge formation of a person purely on the basis that the person holds a qualification – the RPL evaluation record will need to show an appropriate mapping of the qualification to the relevant WHSQ course. If a person satisfies the skill and knowledge formation requirements, the RTO will then need to apply the challenge test for final determination of competency.

Anyone that has worked in another regulated work environment may be entitled to a dispensation from submitting a Statement of Attainment and Assessment Summary for a WHSQ course on the grounds of a qualification obtained in that environment. Anyone in this situation will need to make application directly to WHSQ with relevant supporting information to allow consideration of the application. The same approach should be applied for dispensation on the grounds of overseas qualifications.

For more information visit [www.deir.qld.gov.au](http://www.deir.qld.gov.au) or call 1300 369 915.