RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)

WHAT IS RPL?

WAYS OF ACQUIRING KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

Non-formal - planned educational interventions that are not intended to lead to a qualification/part-qualification.

Informal - learning that results from daily activities related to paid/unpaid work, including incidental learning.

Formal - learning that occurs in an organised & structured education and training environment.

WHY RPL?

For Access - provides an alternative access route into a programme of learning for those who do not meet the formal entry requirements for admission.

For Credits - provides for the awarding of credits for, or towards, a qualification or part-qualification registered on the NQF.

HOW?

Preparatory Phase

Info & Guidance

Eligibility

Assessment

Recognition

Decision

Appeal

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WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

POLICY MAKERS

MINISTER
• Ensure the development of legislation.

DHET
• Establish the national RPL co-ordinating mechanism.
• Monitor & evaluate RPL implementation.
• Establish a funding mechanism for RPL implementation.

SAQA
• Develop national policy & criteria.
• Receive RPL data from Quality Councils for recording on the NLRD.
• Co-ordinate the alignment of NQF Sub-Framework policies on RPL.

CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

• Manage RPL Fund.
• Establish forum for RPL practitioners.
• Monitor learner referrals to institutions dealing with knowledge and skills gaps.
• Monitor and evaluate RPL implementation.
• Provide support & advice to implement RPL.

QUALITY COUNCILS (QCs)

• Develop & maintain an NLRD-compatible information management system.
• Work with professional bodies & accredited providers to facilitate RPL.
• Monitor the implementation of RPL within own NQF Sub-Frameworks.
• Collaborate with SAQA, NAMB, SETAs and other role players to advance RPL.

RECOGNISED PROFESSIONAL BODIES

• Comply with national & SAQA RPL policies.
• Include an RPL route towards attainment of professional designations.
• Collaborate with SAQA, QCs & Service Providers to support RPL.
• Provide RPL data to the NLRD.

RPL PRACTITIONERS

• Adhere to RPL policy requirements.
• Meet professional requirements.

SERVICE PROVIDERS

• Provide advice, counseling & support to assist RPL candidates before, during & after RPL processes.
• Establish an appeal process for RPL candidates to engage with RPL judgements.
• Provide data to QCs about RPL students within institutions.
• Seek QC accreditation.

RPL CANDIDATES

• Accept co-responsibility as an equal partner in the RPL process.
• Expect to be treated with fairness.
• Respect the processes and procedures of institutions & workplaces.