

4. What should providers have in place if they want to offer RPL?

First and foremost providers should be familiar with the formal assessment requirements of the qualifications, unit standards, or outcomes of the fields and sectors in which they want to offer RPL. They will also need to meet any other quality assurance requirements specifically regarding assessment and RPL put in place by the relevant ETQA.

In general, providers who offer RPL need to have the following in place.

- **RPL policy:** Any organisation undertaking RPL should have an RPL policy which (i) states the purposes and outcomes of RPL explicitly to the target market; and (ii) reflects the institutional position on RPL, and its systems for implementation.
- **Assessment:** The approach taken to RPL assessment can vary substantially, but should articulate with the stated purpose and theoretical view. For example, RPL for access could simply rely on what has been called 'static' forms of evidence, such as documentary proof of relevant non-formal courses undertaken; RPL for applied technical skills would have to rely on observed demonstrations of competence in the real workplace; RPL for an entire qualification would obviously be a process that would involve more than one form of assessment, and would need to link theory and practice, while RPL for one or two unit standards would be more limited in scope; RPL for alternative forms of knowledge might need to be a mediated process rather than just an assessment.
- **Reporting:** The form of reporting will be determined by both policy and purpose. Obviously, RPL for credits, certification and award purposes will be linked to the relevant systems requirements and will address issues such as the following:
 - Registration of credits on the NQF
 - Relevant ETQA reporting requirements
 - Transferability of credits/ qualification to other institutions
 - Value of credits/ qualification
 - Information issued, such as an academic transcript or record of credits
 - The extent to which certification or records will show that credits have been achieved through the RPL process

You will find some examples of RPL policies in Useful Guidelines on the main page of The NQF and RPL. You can also refer to the Assessment Page on this portal for further detail on assessment.

[Answer to FAQ 4 The NQF and RPL, the NQF Gateway]