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?

I have prior knowledge & skills but they are not visible. What can I do to get my knowledge & skills recognised?

HOW?

Preparatory Phase  Info & Guidance  Eligibility  Assessment  Recognition  Decision  Appeal

Now that my knowledge & skills have been recognised, I can use my certificate for further learning, development & work opportunities.

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.
- 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.

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
- 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.

SERVICE PROVIDERS
- 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.

RPL CANDIDATES
- Adhere to RPL policy requirements.
- Meet professional requirements.