

ACWA Packaged qualifications policy – AQF diploma level courses

Introduction

This document sets out the criteria by which the Australian Community Workers Association Inc. (ACWA) will assess course accreditation applications where an education provider wishes to package a certificate level qualification into the Diploma.

ACWA recognises that it is necessary to regularly review and revise the approach to packaging qualifications in order to respond to the needs of the industry, students and education providers. In line with this commitment the revised model will now apply.

This policy is current as at 1 April 2014 and replaces all previous policy documents.

Purpose

ACWA recognises that high-quality education and training underpins high-quality service provision for individuals, families, groups and communities. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that course packaging meets the prescribed standard and does not diminish the quality of a diploma qualification.

Definitions

AQF - means the Australian Qualifications Framework (the nationally supported and internationally recognised framework of qualifications).

ACWA course requirements:

- A. Courses that package a certificate III into an AQF level diploma qualification will be granted accredited course status, if all of the following conditions are met:
- the Certificate III qualification is packaged with a Certificate IV qualification into an AQF level Diploma
 - the components of the diploma level qualification (as packaged) are delivered over a minimum of two (2) academic years full time study (or part time equivalent)
 - the electives offered as part of the Certificate IV component of the package are at least at an AQF level 4
 - field placements conducted during the Certificate III component of the package are not counted towards the ACWA fieldwork placement requirement of 400 hours of suitable and relevant fieldwork which is required for the diploma qualification
 - each field placement is assessed at AQF level 5
 - recognition of prior learning for Certificate IV components is assessed at least at an AQF Level 4

- recognition of prior learning for AQF level diplomas is assessed at least at an AQF level 5.
- B. Courses that only package the Certificate IV into a diploma may be granted accredited course status provided that:
- the diploma qualification (as packaged) is delivered over a minimum of two (2) academic years (or part time equivalent)
 - the electives for Certificate IV are assessed at least at an AQF level 4
 - each field placement is assessed at AQF level 5
 - recognition of prior learning for Certificate IV is assessed at least at AQF level 4
 - recognition of prior learning for AQF level diploma is assessed at least at an AQF level 5

Enquiries

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