

ACWA Packaged Qualifications Policy

Introduction

This document provides the criteria by which the Australian Community Workers Association Inc (ACWA) will assess applications for Course Approval where an Education Provider wishes to package a Certificate level qualification into the Diploma.

This document is current as at 24 February 2011, but may be varied by ACWA from time to time.

Purpose

ACWA recognises that high-quality education and training underpins high-quality, service provision for individuals, families, groups and communities. Through a robust Course Assessment process ACWA is committed to promoting professional accountability and quality assurance for future community service professionals.

The level of requisite skills and knowledge for the Community Welfare Work sector are of a considerably higher standard than the more narrow focus of (say) personal carers and activities officers in aged care or disability. Therefore ACWA Course Approval Policies and Procedures must reflect and reinforce the appropriate standards.

1. Definitions

- a) “AEI-NOOSR Standards” means the standards imposed by the Australian Education International National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition.
- b) “ACWA” means the Australian Community Workers Association Inc.
- c) “Approved Course” means a course which has received approval from ACWA in accordance with ACWA’s guidelines and requirements as amended from time to time.
- d) “AQF” means the Australian Qualifications Framework (the nationally supported and internationally recognised framework of qualifications).
- e) “Course” shall mean the Course which is the subject of this Application, as identified at question and as taught at the Campus.
- f) “Course Approval” shall mean the process by which an Education Provider applies to have Approved Course status granted in relation to the Course, including but not limited to circumstances where an Education Provider’s Approved Course status has lapsed, been suspended or revoked, or where the Course has not previously held Approved Course status.
- g) “Course Assessment” refers to the process through which a Course Approval is determined by ACWA.
- h) “Education Provider” includes a University, TAFE College and RTO.
- i) “Guidelines for Course Approval” refers to the “ACWA Guidelines for Course Approval”, as amended by ACWA from time to time.
- j) “Packaging” refers to the combination of two separate qualifications to provide a pathway to the higher qualification (also known as ‘embedding’ or ‘nesting’),
- k) “RPL” means Recognition of Prior Learning

2. ACWA Course Requirements:

- a) To be considered for Approved Course status a qualification must comply with the requirements as set out in the current Guidelines for Course Approval and the current Fieldwork Placement Requirements.
- b) The minimum qualification is an AQF Diploma studied over a minimum of two (2) years of full time study (or part-time equivalent) with a minimum of 400 hours of fieldwork placement. Certificate courses cannot be approved because the level of study does not conform to ACWA and AEI-NOOSR standards.
- c) Courses that package the Certificate III (Cert III) into the Diploma will not be granted Course Approval status.
- d) Courses that package the Certificate IV (Cert IV) into the Diploma may be granted Course Approval status provided that:
 - i. The Diploma qualification (packaged) is delivered over a minimum of two (2) years;
 - ii. All electives are delivered and assessed at AQF level 5 or above;
 - iii. Each field placement is assessed at AQF level 5; and
 - iv. RPL is assessed at AQF level 5.

3. Transitional Arrangements

Whilst ACWA has never formally approved the packaging of the Cert III into the Diploma, it is noted that a number of Education Providers have structured their courses to include the Cert III and/or Cert IV as part of the 2 year Diploma qualification.

- a) As of 01 April 2011, Course Approval Applications for a qualification with the Cert III packaged into the Diploma within the two (2) years of study will not be granted Approved Course status.
- b) Course Approval Applications for a qualification with the Cert III packaged into the Diploma (received prior to 01 April 2011) may be granted Approved Course status for a short period of time (which will not extend beyond 31 December 2011) provided that the application meets all other current assessment requirements;
- c) Any Approval granted by ACWA will be subject to the Education Provider restructuring their course to reflect “ACWA Guidelines for Course Approval” and “ACWA Packaged Qualifications Policy”. This means that any course with the Cert III packaged into the Diploma qualification will not be granted Approved Course status after 01 April 2011.
- d) If an Education Provider decides to restructure the Diploma course they will be required to submit a new application for Course Approval.

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Enquiries

Further enquiries can be addressed to:

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