

# Recognition within the National Library Curriculum Framework

A national recognition strategy to accompany the recently introduced national curriculum for library technicians is currently under development. This Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs funded ALIA project will provide a framework for RPL (recognition of prior learning) assessment by developing a number of implementation models, and detailed guidelines to support its introduction into training situations, both on and off-the-job. This framework will be designed to fit with the existing processes used in most TAFE institutions.

This recognition of prior learning project is seen as the first phase in the development of a national assessment strategy, in which learning that occurs outside the formal classroom can be assessed and certified. It also fits into a broader project that is currently being undertaken by CREATE Australia, the national industry training advisory body for the cultural industries.

The CREATE project aims to develop a generic assessment strategy for each of the industries under its portfolio. For each industry, a number of options (pathways) to recognition of competencies will be identified,

and mechanisms for issuing credentials and maintaining records will be specified.

Given the current Government approach to simplifying recognition arrangements in the vocational education and training sector, the focus of the project will be on providing the flexibility needed for trainers to assess learning that has taken place informally or through life experiences. This approach must be underpinned by strong quality assurance processes to ensure the recognition outcomes are consistent and reliable.

The recognition of prior learning strategy is based on an action learning process by which the applicant, supported by a mentor, uses the experience as part of a personal learning program. The applicant collects, categorises and assesses their own learning, determining the information to be presented at interview, and developing insights about the nature of their learning. Piloting will commence in December and January, with the project expected to be completed in April.

For further information, contact the project manager, Donna Reid: telephone (06) 207 3360; fax (06) 207 3338; or e-mail: donna\_reid@cit.act.edu.au.



Donna Reid, project manager



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