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Gaining qualifications in vocational training in Permaculture through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) is the process of assessing and granting credit to students for skills, knowledge and experience gained through work and life experience and previous learning and studies.

There are several Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) that offer Recognition of Prior Learning where students who are experienced in their proposed field of study can have their knowledge and competence assessed, through the RPL process, to provide credits against their studies.

What is vocational training in Permaculture?

Vocational training courses in Permaculture have been available since 2003, and there are currently five qualifications and a skill which are included in the [Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation & Land Management Training Package](#).

Qualifications available are:

- [AHC10416 Certificate I in Permaculture](#)
- [AHC21716 Certificate II in Permaculture](#)
- [AHC33816 Certificate III in Permaculture](#)
- [AHC42116 Certificate IV in Permaculture](#)
- [AHC52116 Diploma of Permaculture](#)
- [AHCSS00048 Permaculture Demonstrator Skill Set](#) – intended to provide school teachers and others with the necessary permaculture knowledge and skills to deliver Certificates I and/or II.

These qualifications are a part of vocational education and training (VET) system in Australia. The qualifications are designed to offer training in permaculture practices and techniques, and in professional skills related to sustainable living. They are not a replacement for the Permaculture Design Course (PDC) which is not accredited in the Australian vocational training system. These courses constitute competency-based training with access to state and federal government subsidies to study, where these apply.

Why would you want to gain vocational qualifications in Permaculture through the Recognition of Prior Learning process?

- To capitalise on the knowledge and skills gained through earlier permaculture, horticulture and agriculture training and participation in related projects.



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- To have experience gained as a long-term permaculture practitioner formally recognised.
- In order to become qualified as an accredited permaculture teacher/trainer for schools, TAFE and RTOs and for personal professional development.
- To develop a successful career path in the permaculture.
- To help generate a regular income, professional or contract fees through work as a permaculture land manager, project manager, designer or consultant.
- In order to integrate vocational units in Permaculture into studies for horticulture and agriculture qualifications e.g to specialise in permaculture design.
- So that vocational studies in permaculture can be credited to appropriate University and post-graduate studies.

RPL for school teachers

More and more schools and teachers are already seeing the value of hands-on outdoor learning experiences that address a variety of learning styles in primary education. The benefits can also be applied by secondary schools by offering Cert I or II in Permaculture to their students. By qualifying in the [Permaculture Demonstrator Skill Set](#), you would be in a good position to teach permaculture in secondary schools.

RPL as professional skill development

Experienced employees, consultants and contractors with corporations involved in landscape architecture, landscape construction, restoration, re-vegetation and remediation will also benefit from undertaking permaculture training through the RPL process to improve their suite of skills, create new career pathways and project management opportunities.

The qualifications that you may seek to gain through RPL

- [AHC33816 Certificate III in Permaculture](#)
- [AHC42116 Certificate IV in Permaculture](#)
- [AHC52116 Diploma of Permaculture](#)
- [AHCSS00048 Permaculture Demonstrator Skill Set](#)

So where to from here?

- Research and contact Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) to check if they are offering RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning) for their Accredited Permaculture training courses. Costs for RPL vary widely. RTOs with scope to deliver this training are listed at the above links.
- For more information please contact the PA Education Team at education@permacultureaustralia.org.au