



## What is Recognition of Prior Learning?

Recognition of Prior Learning is a process which recognises the prior experiences, skills and knowledge of individuals within a given context and against a standard.

The ATDP program consists of the 10620NAT Course in Military Advocacy which has six elective Units of Competency, some of which are a pre-requisite for other Units of Competency. Units of Competency describe exactly how a particular job or role is performed and how assessment against the Unit of Competency can be demonstrated. The Units of Competency form the standard by which everyone must be assessed.

The 10620NAT Course in Military Advocacy and its associated Units of Competency have been accredited by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA). As such, training delivered to the standard, and assessment of competence against a Unit of Competency, must comply with all the requirements of the Australian Vocational Education and Training standards.

Accredited courses can only be delivered by (or under the auspices of) a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) which has the course and Units of Competency recorded against its Scope of Registration. Our partnering RTO is Major Training Services Pty Ltd (RTO Code 90748). Additionally, the assessment instruments used by the RTO, whether to assess at the conclusion of training or by RPL must be developed in a manner which complies with the *Standards for Registered Training Organisations. 2015* and the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). All training materials and assessment tools must be regularly subjected to internal audit and records kept stating when such audits were carried out, to ensure they comply with the requirements for assessment.

Our partnering RTO will also monitor us on a regular basis to ensure compliance with the *Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015*.

The RPL process used by ATDP was developed by advocates in conjunction with the RTO to ensure “industry standards” could be demonstrated by a candidate. The process was rigorous and after development trialled on two occasions to ensure it met all requirements.

RPL involves the collection of evidence including demonstration of knowledge and skills, which would indicate a person has all the competencies required for the Unit. In many cases the collection of that evidence may not be cost nor time effective, such as visiting a candidate’s workplace and observing them perform all aspects of the role described in the Unit of Competency. This may take many visits before sufficient evidence could be collected.

The ATDP method, with people trained under the former Training and Information

Program, is to have them attend a program where they undertake a written quiz to demonstrate the knowledge evidence required. Candidates also undertake an interview where they are able to present suitable evidence and answer a number of questions which relate to the skills evidence necessary.

Candidates wishing to undertake RPL should familiarise themselves with the particular Unit of Competency against which they seek to be assessed. They should consider all aspects of performance, knowledge and foundation skills evidence that they should be able to demonstrate during the RPL process. In other words, a candidate must “self-assess” prior to undertaking RPL. Candidates who have gaps in the evidence they produce will be judged to be not-yet-competent. If this occurs the candidate is given information as to how the missing evidence may be demonstrated or a tailored remedial training program developed, which brings the candidate to the required standard. Such a program would also include suitable workplace experiences which would require observation by a mentor.