

Children's Services Recognition Program

Calling for Applications for Final Intake



What is the program about?

The program is designed to provide a customised and supported journey for unqualified Children's Services staff, to achieve recognition of current competence, towards achievement of the Diploma of Children's Services (Early Childhood Education and Care).

To be eligible to apply to become a Recognition Candidate, your service needs to be licensed with the Child Care Unit as a CBC1 or a CBC1/2 service. Check with your Manager if you are unsure.

Who is a Recognition Candidate?

Let's start with a scenario:

Jess and Jon have been working in a child care centre for many years. They have attended many professional development programs during this time, and consistently put their new knowledge and skills into practice. They often reflect on what they are doing, observe others and seek feedback and support to continually improve their practices...*by doing this, they are learning 'on the job'!*

The centre they work for has achieved good ratings for all aspects of the Accreditation process. Jess and Jon feel they have a good understanding of the Accreditation Principles and that they made a reasonable contribution to the centre's success...*by doing this, they are learning 'on the job'!*

They value and work within the centre's policies and procedures and understand where these come from and why they are important...*by doing this, they are learning 'on the job'!*

From time to time, even if only for short periods of time both Jess and Jon have acted in approved qualified positions...*by doing this, they are learning 'on the job'!*

And so the examples of how Jon and Jess are developing knowledge and skills every day, could go on and on!

Recognition of knowledge and skills gained 'on the job'

So along comes the Recognition Program – an opportunity for Jess and Jon to have their knowledge and skills formally recognised, and 'mapped' to units in the Diploma of Children's Services. Jon and Jess become *candidates* who will work through the recognition process.

You too could become a Recognition Candidate!

How will this happen?

A Recognition Coach, a qualified early childhood educator who has been trained in assessment through the project, will work with you through the recognition process. The Coach will assist you to provide the evidence you need to demonstrate that you have, through your work, developed the required knowledge and skill for achievement of units from the Diploma of Children's Services.

In some cases, you might not have all the evidence required for particular units. In such cases options for further training will be discussed, providing clear direction as to what you need to do to fill the gap.

The Project Manager and/or Regional Co-ordinators from the Skills Institute will support the Recognition Coaches in their role and liaise with centres to ensure that the program runs smoothly.

Would you like to be a Recognition Candidate?

- Do you feel that you have gained a great deal of knowledge and skills about working with children in a child care setting through your day to day work?
- Do you work in or have you worked in an 'approved' qualified position?
- Are you part way through your Diploma studies already but feel that you would be eligible for some recognition?
- Is your manager prepared to recommend you as a staff member that shows a commitment to learning and the potential to work at Diploma level?

If you ticked all of the above boxes then you demonstrate that you meet the criteria for selection. If you have ticked some, but not all of the above, your application will still be considered.

If you are still wavering as to whether you wish to apply, consider the following.

What's in it for me?

- All those wonderful skills that you already possess will be formally recognised!
- Your recognition journey will be supported by your Recognition Coach.
- You will be assisting your service to comply with the Child Care Licensing Standards.
- You will be one step in front as the new National Quality Standards require all people working in child care to have a minimum of a Certificate III.
- You will find this a much more satisfying way to achieve the Diploma, compared with traditional study pathways.

Need more information?

Read the information provided to your service about the Recognition Program and discuss the prospects of your participation with your manager.

Ready to apply?

If so, complete the attached application form and return to Helen Houston, Project Manager, by Friday April 8, 2011.

**Application Form
Recognition Candidate
Children's Services Recognition Program**

Name _____

Work role/position _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Name of service _____

Years of service _____

Years of work in Children's Services _____

Qualification(s)/Date _____

Current Study

Name of qualification _____

Name of Registered Training Organisation _____

Work experience (State positions held/main responsibilities, or attach a CV) _____

If you meet any of the following criteria, you are eligible to apply:

- Have worked in Children's Services for a period of time and believes you have the capacity and the commitment to complete a Diploma.
- Have worked in or are currently working in, an 'approved' qualified position.
- Are part way through Diploma of Children's Services studies.
- Have been recommended by the Service Manager as a staff member that shows a commitment to learning, and the potential to work at Diploma level.

N.B. With reference to the above criteria, please attach a statement of approximately one paragraph stating why you think you should be selected as a Recognition Candidate.

To be completed by your Manager

Name _____

Work role/position _____

Service _____

Postal Address _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

The following criteria will be used to select participants.

- Has worked in Children’s Services for a period of time and believes they have the capacity and the commitment to complete a Diploma.
- Has worked in or is currently working in, an ‘approved’ qualified position.
- Is part way through Diploma of Children’s Services studies.
- Has been recommended by the Service Manager as a staff member that shows a commitment to learning, and the potential to work at Diploma level.

If the applicant meets some, but not all of the above criteria, their application will still be considered.

* **Is the applicant in an ‘approved’ qualified position?** _____

* **Circle the applicant’s relevant employment situation:**

Permanent Contract Casual

If less than full time state average weekly workload: ___hrs

Please read the above selection criteria then briefly explain why you think this person would be a suitable Recognition Candidate.

Our service is willing to release this person to participate in the Children’s Services Recognition Program. I have read and understand the *Information for Services* document.

Applicant Signature _____ **Date** _____

Manager Signature _____ **Date** _____

Applications to be returned by Friday April 8, 2011 to:
 Helen Houston - Project Manager - Children's Services Recognition Project
 VET Strategy and Product Development
 Skills Institute, GPO Box 2015, Hobart, 7001.

Phone: 6245 8088. Mobile: 0429 290920. Fax: 6245 8033. Email: Helen.Houston@skillsinstitute.tas.edu.au