RPL Policy and Practices: the SAQA Perspective

International Seminar on RPL
21 June 2019

Julie Reddy: Deputy CEO
RPL Policy Environment

RPL Coordinating Policy

National Policy and Criteria for Implementation of RPL

Sub-Framework RPL Policies

Provider Policies

Practitioner Policies

Professional Body Policies

Employer Policies

NQF Act, 67 of 2008

RPL achievements recorded on NLRD
National Policy & Criteria (amended 2019)

Aligned to RPL Coordination Policy

Confirms place of RPL in NQF context

Linked to learning outcomes

Any type of learning, across 10 NQF levels

Two main types; different purposes & processes

for credit

for access
Elements of holistic approach

- Multi-dimensional
- Credible processes
- Focus on what was learned
- Alternative access routes & entry requirements
- Multi-contextual
- No distinction: RPL & conventional
- Various forms of assessment
- Credit for assessed evidence
- SAQA monitors access & redress
- QA protects integrity
105 professional bodies have RPL policies
Statutory bodies: RPL models for awarding a professional designation

Health Sector PBs

No underlying qualification

RPL for access the qualification is done by provider that issues the qualification

Comply with the requirements for the awarding the qualification

Professional body awards a designation

Built Environment PBs

No underlying qualification

RPL against a designation is done by the PB

RPL assessment against the designation competency framework

Professional body awards a designation
Non-statutory bodies: RPL models for awarding a professional designation

Some PBs have an Induction workshop

Submission of application from a member without a qualification

Internal committee adjudicates on the application

Gap fill

The successful applicant Board exam/Interview

An outsourced training provider may carry out the adjudication process

Designation awarded
Pockets of excellence, but...

Need for better alignment

Inconsistent interpretation of guidelines

Limited skills & expertise

Negative perceptions

Resource constraints

Pushback

Statutory bodies blocked by legislation
Achievements and prospects

81611 people with RPL achievements

80% in occupational space

VPL Bienniale

Cape Town 2021