

Qualifying for Accreditation as a Building Practitioner in Tasmania

There are two basic ways to qualify for accreditation under the Building Act 2000. The Mutual Recognition Act, enables those accredited to practise in another state of Australia, or New Zealand to be accredited to perform work of the same nature in Tasmania. For those not accredited in another jurisdiction, formal qualification is required in almost all circumstances. (See the End Note). The minimum qualification is a Certificate IV relevant to the area in which you wish to practise. At the highest levels, you will need to have a Bachelor Degree. If you possess a lesser qualification, or no qualification at all, do not despair.

Converting Your Existing Skills and Knowledge into a Qualification

Skills and knowledge are acquired through more than just academic qualification. For example, work experiences, life experiences, informal training and other sources all contribute towards competency. Formal training programs in the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) recognise this and provide for assessing Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Recognition of Current Competencies (RCC). Your RPL and RCC can be assessed by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and cashed in as equivalent to some of the modules required to complete a formal qualification.

In other words, for a person who has sufficient real-world experience, it is not necessary to complete each and every module of a course in order to obtain the qualification you need. The Recognition process determines which modules are necessary for you to undertake and eliminates the need to study those dealing with what you already know.

Relevant Evidence

While there are many ways of assessing evidence of competence, there are three main types used.

- Direct evidence is evidence produced by you and includes direct observation, work-related projects, direct questioning and video-, or audio-taped performance.
- Indirect evidence is evidence produced about you, and includes written testimony from peers, or current employer/manager, current reports of work, or training activity, team outcomes, or outputs.
- Historical evidence is evidence about what you knew, or work you did in the past, including written testimony from past employers/managers, certificates, or other qualifications, newspaper, or magazine articles written about you, log books, or other past records.

There are five rules concerning the assessment and judgement of the evidence you provide:

1. The evidence must be valid, which means it must relate to the specific outcome, or standard that is being assessed;
2. The evidence must be authentic, which means it must reflect something you actually did;
3. The evidence must be current, which means it relates to your current competence;
4. The evidence must be sufficient, which means that you are competent against the outcomes;
5. The evidence must be reliable, which means the outcome of the assessment should be the same, or very similar, regardless of who assesses you.

Registered Training Organisations

In order to undergo Recognition against a qualification, you must approach a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). There are many RTOs throughout Australia, providing classroom and distance education, electronically and through the normal postal service. The choice is entirely yours. TAFEs, Universities, some builder organisations and many private companies are RTOs providing training for qualifications within the Australian Qualifications Framework.

Building Practitioner Accreditation (BPA) is not an RTO, nor are any BPA officers accredited assessors, so we cannot assess you for qualification. What we do is accredit practitioners based on their qualifications as assessed by an RTO and their verified years of experience practising at the level of accreditation applied for.

End Note

Sometimes, BPA can issue very limited accreditation. For example, joiners who build kitchens are required by Councils to obtain a Building Permit. Obtaining a Building Permit requires an accredited builder. Hence, the BPA accredits those joiners as Builder Low Rise with a scope of kitchen joinery.