Residential Care Workers Vocational Education and Training Initiative: 

Information for Organisations

Background to the Initiative

Young people who reside in residential care require the best possible care that can be provided. The safety and wellbeing of these young people is the paramount consideration for everyone involved in their care.

To build the capacity of the residential care workforce to provide high quality, professional and responsive support to children and young people in residential out of home care, the department and community services organisations must ensure, amongst other issues, that Victoria has a consistent and appropriately skilled workforce.

This is supported by $8 million announced by the Minister for Families and Children, and the Minister for Training and Skills in May 2016. Since November 2016 a further $1.1 million was announced to provide practical support to organisations and workers with the transition to a minimum qualification.

Minimum qualification requirements from 1 January 2018

The Minimum Qualifications Strategy is available at the website listed below. From 1 January 2018, all workers providing direct care to children and young people in residential care homes operated or funded by the department will be required to:

A. Hold a Certificate IV in Child, Youth and Family Intervention (Residential and out of home care), including an accredited trauma unit of competency;
B. Be undertaking a Certificate IV in Child, Youth and Family Intervention (Residential and out of home care), and have completed the mandatory units of competency
C. Hold, or be undertaking, a qualification recognised as relevant to residential care and have completed the mandatory units of competency.

In partnership with the Centre for Excellence for Children and Family Welfare, the department has developed a list of recognised, relevant qualifications for workers, available at: http://www.cfecfw.asn.au/news/2017/01/residential-care-workers-vocational-education-training-initiative

Training details

The Residential Care Workers Vocational Education and Training Initiative (the initiative) provides statewide training for workers who do not currently meet the minimum qualification requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training</th>
<th>Expected Duration</th>
<th>Classroom Days</th>
<th>Minimum Workplace based hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Full Course</strong></td>
<td>9-12 Months</td>
<td>2 Days per month</td>
<td>Average 12 hours per week</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Top Up Course</strong></td>
<td>2-3 Months</td>
<td>Total of 5 days</td>
<td>Average 12 hours per week</td>
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*Certificate IV in Child, Youth and Family Intervention (Residential and out of home care)
Organisations will need to plan for workers to undertake training and workplace assessment to ensure staffing needs are met, and to minimise disruption to the operational requirements of residential care units or the wellbeing of the young people who live in residential care, wherever possible.

Workplace assessment will be conducted by appropriately qualified assessors (up to a maximum of 10 hours per unit ie. up to a maximum of 160 hours for the certificate IV). Organisations will be invited to provide appropriate staff to conduct workplace assessments or requested to support workplace assessments when external assessors are required.

**How to book training for workers**

Relevant Manager or Organisational representative to:


2. Determine training requirements of residential care workers.

3. Book appropriate training for individual workers by completing all details.

All workers booked into training and their nominated manager will be contacted by a representative from Melbourne Polytechnic.

**Available support**

**Skills First Initiative**

Skills First, launched in January 2017, provides support for all Australians to receive subsidies to undertake training in Victoria. Through the Skills First Initiative there will be no course cost to the individual for training undertaken through the initiative.

**Learning Support Packages**

Learning support packages are available to eligible workers and community service organisations to support completion of the *Certificate IV in Child, Youth and Family Intervention (Residential and out of home care)*.

**Recognition of Prior Learning**

Upon enrolment in TAFE, workers can request to participate in a Skills Recognition process so that their previous training and/or work experience can be considered for the purpose of gaining credits or exemptions for the qualification.

**Additional learning support needs**

Workers who have concerns regarding their learning are encouraged to speak with their manager and/or seek advice from a TAFE delivering the initiative.

**Information and assistance**

Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare
Raelene Jones
(03) 9614 1577 or 0421 914 414 or [Raelene.Jones@cfecfw.asn.au](mailto:Raelene.Jones@cfecfw.asn.au)