



ROYAL
REHABILITATION
COLLEGE

Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance

HLT42507



NATIONALLY RECOGNISED
TRAINING

Course overview

This course provides training for people who work as assistants to allied health therapists, in health and community services, in hospitals and community settings. This course is most suitable for individuals currently working, or about to commence working as assistants to allied health therapists. The qualification can be gained in physiotherapy, occupational therapy or speech pathology. It is also possible to for a student to complete electives to achieve a multi-disciplinary qualification.

Information for students

You will develop knowledge and skills to work more effectively as an assistant. These will include an

understanding of allied health, rehabilitation, patient and staff communication, allied health specific skills and professional development.

You will also develop knowledge of infection control and occupational health and safety in health practice.

This course, designed for allied therapy assistants, consists of 22 competencies:

- 4 core units,
- 5 allied health electives
- 6 other elective units
- 7 pre/co-requisite requirements (from the Certificate III in Allied health Assistance)

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About the College

- The Royal Rehabilitation College specialises in training allied health assistants.
- It is an RTO (Registered Training Organisation) that is part of the Royal Rehabilitation Centre, Sydney. The Royal Rehabilitation Centre is a specialist physical rehabilitation facility located in the suburb of Ryde.
- The College employs therapists from the Royal Rehabilitation Centre who have additional education qualifications to develop and implement this vocational training.

Training

The Royal Rehabilitation College model for the Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance qualification includes both training and assessment. The training section is made of three components.

1. Structured workplace training program

This is a formalised checklist for on-the-job training of assistants. The checklist provides supervisors with a structured format to train from, in addition to this it prevents critical aspects being overlooked. This program covers many of the skills required by assistants in the workplace.

2. Self paced learning guides

A number of learning guides have been developed by allied health therapists to cover the underpinning knowledge component. These guides contain information, readings and application activities that are designed to be completed independently, prior to assistants attending the tutorials.

3. Interactive tutorial program

The tutorials are interactive in nature and build on the knowledge gained from the learning guides. The purpose of the tutorials is to explore the application in the workplace of the knowledge and skills gained.

The tutorials that are offered by the Royal Rehabilitation College are held one full day every six weeks.

Assessment

The assessment component of the Royal Rehabilitation College model includes four types of assessment. These have also been developed by allied health therapists to ensure they are both practical and possible within the health workplace. All assessments are competency based. The types of assessment used include: third party reports, observation checklists, questioning assessments and work projects.

1. Third party reports are documents that workplace supervisors complete, to verify that the assistant has shown evidence of skills and knowledge over time, in the workplace.
2. Observation checklists are conducted by the Royal Rehabilitation College and involve an assessor observing the assistant in their workplace on one occasion. This is evidence of competence at one point of time by an objective observer in the workplace.
3. Questioning assessments are written assessments completed by the assistant to show evidence of knowledge in the area being assessed.
4. Work Projects provide an opportunity for assistants to show that they are able to apply the knowledge and skills gained within their own work setting. The work projects are also written assessments.

What subjects are offered?

The Royal Rehabilitation College offers all the pre-requisite and core subjects along with all the allied health electives from the physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech pathology streams.

The Royal Rehabilitation College also offers a wide range of other electives that are relevant to allied health assistants who work in Health. Details of the electives and their content can be found on the National Training Information Service (NTIS) website, www.ntis.gov.au

What options do I have to gain this qualification?

The qualification contains a number of options for students to choose from and the Royal Rehabilitation College is very flexible in its approach. The option recommended will be based on what best meets the assistant's learning needs.

- The standard approach involves participating in the full training and assessment process for all 22 units of competency.
- If you have completed the Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance then you do not need to complete the prerequisites, leaving only 15 units of competency.
- If you have significant experience, then recognition may be an option (see below).
- You may also benefit from a mix of recognition and training.
- A number of very skilled assistants have wanted to complete the training component because they have had limited professional development opportunities in the past.

Recognition

Recognition of existing skills and knowledge is another specialty area of the Royal Rehabilitation College.

The Recognition model developed by the Royal Rehabilitation College allows experienced assistants the opportunity to validate their skills and gain a nationally recognised qualification.

The recognition model involves a planning interview, a period of evidence gathering and a final decision. A range of recognition assessment tools have been developed to assist with the evidence gathering. The assistants who have gained part of their qualification with the Royal Rehabilitation College through the recognition of their prior skills and knowledge, have found the process challenging at times yet rewarding. One assistant said "I knew I had the knowledge, but the process of getting it out of my head and onto paper was hard work but worth it!"

The Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance has only been available since March 2007. Consequently, there are a high number of individuals who are yet to gain the qualification. Recognition of prior knowledge and skills is one way assistants can gain recognition of their years of experience, knowledge and skill, to gain a nationally recognised qualification.

There are additional subjects offered in the recognition program that are not offered in the standard program. These include but are not limited to the podiatry specific electives, reception services and wheelchair maintenance.

Transfer of credits

If you have completed other accredited courses or units of competency that are relevant to this qualification, then these may be able to be credited towards this qualification as an elective.

How do I apply?

An application form with costs is available on the website, www.royalrehab.com.au/college

How much will it cost?

The total cost is determined by the components of the course and the location of the assistant. Some assistants will be interested and eligible for recognition or assessment only, while others will complete the full training component as well as assessment. An assessment process is required in order to gain this qualification.

If you are interested in a mix of training and recognition an individual quote can be worked out by the Royal Rehabilitation College.

What qualification can I gain?

- Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance
- Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance (Physiotherapy)
- Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance (Occupational Therapy)
- Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance (Speech Pathology)

The title of the qualification is determined by the allied health electives chosen.

How long will it take?

This is a two year qualification, however most students choose to complete it in the first year. The tutorial program runs over a 12 month period. The Recognition program is flexible around student requirements.

Further enquiries

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