



CAPABLE NZ

NEW ZEALAND CENTRE FOR ASSESSMENT OF PRIOR LEARNING

> Social Services > Youth Work



National Diploma in Youth Work (Level 6)

Via Assessment of Prior Learning (APL).

Are you a skilled and experienced youth worker?
Would you like to be able to articulate a deeper, richer understanding of your work with young people?
Would you like to gain a recognised qualification that reflects your expertise?
Then consider the APL pathway to the National Diploma in Youth Work (Level 6).

VALUE FOR OF THE APL PROCESS FOR EXPERIENCED YOUTH WORKERS:

APL is an internationally-recognised, academically valid way of recognising the understandings that individuals have gained through their experience.

Capable NZ (New Zealand Centre for Assessment of Prior Learning) at Otago Polytechnic provides an alternative pathway for you to gain a formal recognised qualification. Capable NZ has entered into a partnership arrangement with the National Youth Workers Network Aotearoa. This partnership utilises story telling and sharing experiences – paradigms recognised by youth workers – to provide you with a unique pathway to a full (or part) national qualification in youth work.

Capable NZ focuses on your own experiential learning using skilled facilitators, and takes an holistic, integrated view of a qualification.

In the APL process, you are encouraged to identify, demonstrate, articulate and reflect upon the understandings and skills you have developed in your life (both through your work and any other relevant learning experiences). This provides the opportunity to explore all aspects of your work and shape these into your personal integrated Model of Practice.

This process of reflecting upon experience not only enables you to gain valid qualifications, but it is also personally very valuable.

Our APL process provides you with an opportunity to grow academically, in competence and confidence; it is not merely a credentialing process.

PURPOSE OF THE NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN YOUTH WORK:

As a Youth Worker, you play a key role in the lives of young men and women in a rapidly changing society. You actively engage with young people in a variety of contexts and environments, while taking account of diversity and the social, economic, cultural and ethnic characteristics that shape this diversity.

The National Diploma in Youth Work (Level 6) provides recognition that your competence, knowledge, and skills are at a level required for professional youth work. Award of the National Diploma confirms that you are able to:

- Work with a considerable degree of autonomy and accountability
- Establish and maintain working relationships with young people
- Facilitate youth development and empowerment
- Provide leadership to young people and youth leaders
- Integrate theory and practice at a senior level.

The diploma recognises that you have skills and understandings appropriate to a professional youth worker, and that these will be reflected in the following competencies:

- You are a reflective and intentional practitioner, demonstrating an integrated practice theory for working in youth work. You contribute to young people’s learning and development, supporting them to realise their potential while building citizenship, respect for human rights and a sense of mutual responsibility.
- Able to take responsibility for leading and managing youth projects,

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- you apply sound risk management procedures and work in accordance with legislative boundaries and government policy.
- You appreciate the value of the wider networks of whanau, peers, community and culture and are able to analyse youth issues and social structures. You understand human development and health, the historical perspectives of youth work and the global trends that shape your work.
 - Your work is supported by professional supervision and informed by knowledge and skills in the application and implementation of Te Tiriti Waitangi, youth work Codes of Ethics, and the Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa.

APL PROCESS FOR EXPERIENCED YOUTH WORKERS:

If you think you match the description of someone who has the level of competence, knowledge, and skills required for professional youth work as described by the Purpose of the National Diploma (above) and are interested in gaining this qualification through APL, then contact Capable NZ. The process is then as follows.

Step 1. Profiling:

You will have an interview with a Capable NZ staff member to discuss your experiences, understandings, and goals. This is to ensure that this National Diploma is the correct qualification for you, and that you are suitable for the APL process, which can be a demanding if rewarding one. Note that you can also be assessed for part of the qualification, and then complete the Diploma through the further new learning you need.

Step 2. Case Studies Review:

A Capable NZ facilitator will contact you to help you identify case studies from your work practice that highlight your experience, skills and insights. This is in preparation for the following intensive facilitated process.

Step 3. Facilitated Preparation for Assessment:

In this stage you will work with your facilitator to enable each of you to express your understandings appropriately in developing your presentation to the assessment panel. Capable NZ facilitators take an holistic approach to ensure all of your understandings are valued, explored and expressed. During facilitation you will be supported in shaping and articulating your unique, personal integrated Model of Practice.

Facilitation can be at a distance and/or face-to-face. It may include group workshops, along with ongoing individual support. The time taken for this stage depends upon your requirements - you will be doing your own individual work, preparing to shape up your integrated understandings in preparation for presenting to a panel.

Step 4. Assessment:

In your presentation for assessment you will demonstrate that you match the description of your selected assessment areas in an holistic way. You will be presenting to a panel of assessors, which will include academics and practicing experts in your field of practice who have been trained in APL.

Step 5. Report on Assessment:

You will receive a written report which will either confirm that you match all the requirements for the National Diploma, or will identify the unit standards and number of credits gained through APL, and the new learning that needs to occur.

Step 6. Graduation:

You either:

- Graduate with the National Diploma in Youth Work (Level 6) – OR
- Achieve APL credits towards the diploma, gain the required new learning to complete the balance of the Diploma, and then graduate,
- And you may also achieve significant credit towards Otago Polytechnic's Diploma in Applied Social Services (Level 6).

COMMENTS FROM APL GRADUATES:

"It was incredibly real for all of us – the sense of engagement in trying to actually look at our practice – you just don't get that kind of attention to what we do very often. I'm a huge fan of the whole process. I think it's the best thing I've seen come into education in a long time."

Raewyn Perkins, Diploma of Applied Social Services (Career Practice)

"I found this exercise compelling and personally very very valuable. All teachers at 20 years' service should be compelled to do it. It is one of the very few times I have ever taken the opportunity to bring my thinking about teaching and learning into a coordinated form, enabling one area of thought to be reflected into another in a systematic way. It was certainly the most effective. The study allowed me to critically reflect on the justification of what I do for kids."

Bruce McKenzie, New Zealand Diploma in Specialist Subjects (Secondary Teacher) Division II

"It forces you to ask the deeper questions about why you are doing the work and why you do the things you do...so it drags you away from all the hustle and bustle of your work to actually look at what you are doing."

Glen Barnes, Diploma of Applied Social Services (Career Practice)

"I am very pleased that I took on the challenge of APL in my specialist field. I have gone from QBE (qualified by experience) to being armed with a recognised tertiary qualification – acknowledged as appropriate by the professional organisations to which I belong. I could never have contemplated the travel time involved in 'regular study'. I am so glad that I was able to choose this ideal alternative."

Pat Papa, Diploma of Applied Social Services (Career Practice)

FEE:

TBA

MORE QUESTIONS:

If you still have questions, please talk to Danny Farrington at Capable NZ (details following), or your Capable NZ facilitator (if you have already been accepted into this process).

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