

Project ID No.	AN 350 / 5 / 1 / 2
GOAL	4
	SUB-PROGRAM

Effective Networking

Teaching and Learning Networks and Assessor Networks

Action plans must be submitted online to www.reframingthefuture.net by COB Tuesday 20 June 2006.

Please refer to 'How to submit an action plan online' in the Reframing the Future handout or on the website.

All sections must be completed.

Please note: sections 1 – 9 of this document will be uploaded onto the Reframing the Future website. Details of participants in item 11 will be only be used in accordance with our privacy policy and will not be published on the website.

Name of organisation funded by Reframing the Future

SA Ambulance Service

1. Convenor's details

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3. Project overview (100 words maximum)

What outcomes do you hope to achieve in your project?

The primary outcome for achievement within the life of this project is the development of a network that focuses on improving the quality and consistency of assessment strategies and methodologies. In particular this improvement is for uptake by volunteer Ambulance Officers of the South Australian Ambulance Service conducting training for the Certificate IV in Basic Emergency Care from the Health Training Package.

Essentially this project will assist in establishing a critical network of regional personnel (with the input of interstate stakeholders) who will ultimately provide a quality assurance role in isolated locations of South Australia.

4. Aspects of the national training system to be addressed by your project, e.g.:

- AQTF compliance issues, particularly Standard 9.2.2 regarding the validation of assessment strategies (assessor networks)

Both key stakeholders within this project are RTOs and as such are bound to work within the guidelines of the standards for such organisations.

Validation of assessment strategies will occur by means of encouraging workplace based learning and discussion from within the network by all focus group members. Each person's opinion will be valued and listened to along with adherence to the AQTF.

At all times the outcomes are linked to SAAS strategic plan and its operating platform for endorsement as a RTO.

- Quality and consistency of assessment in relation to specific Training Packages, covering both on and off the job settings (assessor networks)

AQTF Standard #1 clearly outlines the need for systems to be in place for the provision of quality training and assessment. This project supports this in the development of the network that is seeking to improve the quality and consistency of assessment strategies and methodologies.

As equally as important is Standard #9 that calls for RTOs to identify, negotiate, plan and implement learning and assessment strategies to meet the needs of each of its clients. Again, this project is specifically looking at the assessment methodologies and strategies surrounding a qualification from the Health Training Package with the potential target group being volunteers from within the rural and regional communities of South Australia.

All assessment discussed and examined will be for realistic situations that do cover both on and off the job scenarios.

- Competency-based and workplace training

Network is focused on the improvement of both the quality and consistency of assessment strategies and methodologies for industry based training

- Recognition of Prior Learning

Addressed by the development of instruments that capture and monitor the offering of this methodology. Consultation, involvement and feedback sought from all stakeholders as to the form of offering and applicability to target group members.

- Access and Equity

Addressed by the seeking of collaborative arrangements for the implementation of the national training system specifically for volunteer personnel serving the Ambulance Service in rural and remote locations.

5. Network facilitation

Please describe what steps you will take to ensure that all members of your network are able to benefit from membership of the network, when the participants:

might come from different parts of the one organisation or from multiple organisations or possibly from different types of organisations (e.g. large, small, metropolitan, country, public, private)	Promote acceptance of differing opinions, methods, ideas Focus on the positives and benefits of the new network Sharing of common goals, experiences and challenges Embrace action learning concepts/methodologies at all times within the life of the project
have different amounts of time available for participating	Overcome via experimentation with various media: teleconferencing/face to face/email or telephone
might vary from wanting strong to weak connections.	Listen to all focus group members and endeavour to accommodate preferences. Connection strengths may alter as the network matures so effective, ongoing communication is vital

6. Network processes

Please describe how you propose to provide opportunities for network participants to undertake one or more of the following activities:

to reflect upon and improve their practice	Access to all stakeholders point of view and their contributing role to the project Adequate allocation of time for brainstorming and reflection by all stakeholders Minuting of meetings/actioning of items and encouraging of two way communication Action learning embraced and encouraged by facilitator
share information	Dependant upon participant's commitment to the network and willingness given by their own organisational/department culture. As above, allow exploration in terms of new ideas/possibilities and pov's.
access resources	Established parameters of operation Adaptation of existing resources for potential target group members
validate assessment or other teaching tools	Access to all stakeholders point of view and their contributing role to the project Adherence to CBA Principles Validation by industry stakeholders

<p>develop new forms of collaboration with other assessors or trainers</p>	<p>By encouraging participants to explore the establishment of new opportunities and thereby norms of operation within the project</p> <p>Encourage further joint initiatives outside of the life of the project in order to continually encourage the continued improvement of quality and consistency of assessment strategies and methodologies</p>
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7. Anticipated outcomes

Please describe the outcomes anticipated as a result of your project:

<p>for participating individuals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skill development in knowledge of the VET system • Knowledge acquisition re workbased learning methodology and relevant application to industry in general • Improved understanding of assessment process • Sharing of assessment strategies • Agreed consistent management of assessments • Network of colleagues to share ideas and gain support • Development of communication strategies specific to the project brief
<p>for participating organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent validity of assessment processes, while ensuring flexibility in assessment strategies • Existence of a sustainable network that focuses on improving the quality of consistency of training and assessment strategies • Accessing of existing resources within the VET system and customisation of these resources (if applicable) • Establishment of communication strategies between key stakeholders within industry • Showcasing of project via DFEEST forums
<p>for the VET system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased consistency within a key SA based RTO of delivery and assessment strategies • Increased collaboration within a national VET system of state based stakeholders • Clear correlation in utilising the national training system in encouraging a cultural shift within a key health industry

8. Evaluation

Please provide an outline of the methods you will use to evaluate the participants' learning and your project's efficiency and effectiveness.

Project Evaluation will be based on the six stage model for Evaluation: 'Self Evaluation Strategies' (Reframing the Future). Both formative and summative evaluation techniques will be utilised throughout the life of the project.

Evaluation is primarily concerned with ascertaining the value and extent of workbased learning that has occurred within the newly established network focusing on improving the quality and consistency of assessment strategies and methodologies for chosen personnel within the SAAS.

Activities to achieve this include the following:

- Focus gp self assessment at the commencement and conclusion of the project
- Ongoing reflection/feedback on workshop activities – dissemination of information via appropriate communication channels (specific for rural/remote communities)/benefits achieved/challenges encountered
- Formation of discussion groups/focus questions for focus gp to take to other industry participants
- Qualitative monitoring – discussion with all stakeholders
- Progressive monitoring of action plans/development of tools to allow the implementation of a project training program

9. Project timeframe

Please list project milestones and key dates

(Please add rows as required)

Milestone	Key date
Informal Focus Group Meeting	May
Focus Group Meeting – Planned Action Plan	13 June
Action Plan Due	20 June
Focus Group Meeting – Planned Implementation	29 June
Full Group Meeting – Establishment of Group Norms / Presentation of overall volunteer education projects / Expectations and Understanding of Networking / Project Plan / Sharing of Assessment Strategies, issues and ideas.	26 July
Focus Group Meeting – Review	31 July
Full Group Meeting – Presentation on best-practice and alternative assessment strategies / review network strategies	23 August
Focus Group Meeting – Review and draft of Mid-Term Report	28 August
Mid-Term Report Due	5 September
Full Group Meeting – Plan presentation of assessment strategies / resource requirements / support mechanisms	27 September
Focus Group Meeting – Draft of agreed assessment plan	10 October
Full Group Meeting – Review of assessment plan / strategies to continue network	25 October
National Forum	November
Focus Group Meeting – Draft of Final Report	14 November
Final Report Due	5 December