

Project ID No.	CP 148 / 1 / 1 / 3
GOAL	4
SUB-PROGRAM	

Effective Networking Communities of Practice

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 Details of participants in item 11 will be only be used in accordance with our privacy policy and will not be published on the website.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

Association of Providers of Training Services

1. Convenor's details

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2. Facilitators' details

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3. Project overview (100 words maximum)

A facilitator will be responsible for promoting, organizing, facilitating and evaluation the project. The project will include the following

- A Community of Practice will be developed for experienced Assessors (minimum of three years experience) from over 60 RTO's who are members of APTS.
- A series of 6 – 8 forums will be run between July and November
- Discussion will focus on sharing and exploring issues surrounding awarding qualifications through RPL/RCC.
- Evaluation will be done by seeking written and verbal feedback throughout the project.

What outcomes do you hope to achieve in your project?

- Assessors will be provided with the opportunity to increase their networks within the VET sector in the ACT.

- Assessors will be provided with the opportunity to increase their confidence in engaging in the RPL/RCC process through identification and strategies to overcome perceived barriers as well as have input into identifying best practice and benefits to students of the RPL/RCC process.
- Case studies highlighting best practice and effective strategies will be developed to be used throughout the APTS experienced assessors.

4. Domain of knowledge

What aspects of the national training system will be addressed by your project?
(e.g. establishing relationships with industry clients; improving workplace assessment or delivery; implementing new Training Packages)

The aspect to be addressed is awarding qualifications through Recognition of Prior Learning or Recognition of Current Competencies. Sharing knowledge and experiences is an effective way to support the process to increase the confidence and skills of assessors in this area.

(Please add rows as required)

5. Facilitating your community of practice

Please describe how you propose to facilitate your group progressing through the stages of growth of a Community of Practice (see Table 4.1 in the report: *The Potential for Communities of Practice to underpin the National Training Framework*):

Progress for the group through the five stages of growth will be as follows:

- All forums will actively encourage members to move from the **Potential** stage to the **Coalescing** stage through icebreaking activities, facilitated discussion and shared tasks .
- The **Active** stage will be encouraged through the sharing and recording of the members stories as they compare experience and discuss alternative ways of working.
- Towards the end of the year, the group will start to move to the **Dispersed** stage as the stories have been recorded and meetings occur on an informal or more irregular basis.
- The **Memorable** stage will take place as the members are sharing their experiences and adapting their ways of working to incorporate the knowledge gained through participation in the Community of Practice.

6. Structuring your community

Please describe how you propose to support the development of the three components of your community: its domain of knowledge, community and practice (see *Effectively Structuring Communities of Practice in VET*):

The **Domain of Knowledge** will be focused on the practice of awarding qualifications through RPL/RCC process and will be supported by identifying the common ground, shared experiences and exploring new ways of working in VET.

the participation in the CoP

The **Community** will be supported by providing forums that promote communication and sharing of individuals experiences. In the initial forums, activities promoting interaction between members will be employed to encourage trust and mutual respect between members. Members will be encouraged to contribute a series of case studies as a way of sharing their stories beyond the life of the group. The case studies are a vehicle to encourage the networking of the group, providing a structure to the social fabric of the group.

The **Practice** will be supported facilitating 6 – 8 forums. These forums will include large and small group discussions, brainstorm and individual reflection to build on the collective knowledge of the CoP. Members will be encouraged to contribute their experiences and resources regarding RPL/RCC. This process will in turn increase this specific skill and knowledge by identifying the common ground and boundaries and supporting assessors to develop effective and innovative professional practice.

7. Anticipated outcomes (see Chapters 6-7 of *The Potential*)

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

for participating individuals	Opportunity for discussion on own & others' experiences of RPL/RCC. Opportunity to improve professional practice when assessing students.
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for participating organisations	Organisation's staff will be encouraged to develop their RPL/RCC skills, enabling access to their programs by an increased and more diverse group of potential students	
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8. Evaluation

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

- Reach of marketing of forums into potential participants.
 - Electronic invitations and word of mouth are the most effective way of reaching the participants
- Records will be kept of how many attend and from which organisations to evaluate the diversity of participants
- Level of involvement by participants
- Informal, verbal communication and formal written evaluation forms will be collected at each of the workshops and the overall process of the project
- Production of case studies to support the RPL/RCC processes

9. Project timeframe

Please list project milestones and key dates

(Please add rows as required)

Milestone	Key date
Acton Plan submitted	20 June 06
Promotion of Forums	10 July 06
First Forum conducted	28 July
Forums conducted	July - Nov
Mid term report submitted	5 Oct 06
National Forum	Late Nov
Project Final report submitted	5 Dec
All aspects of projects submitted	29 Jan