

Frequently Asked Questions

Certificate IV in Mental health & Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work

1) What does the Cert IV in Mental Health/Cert IV in Mental Health Peer Work Course involve?

Both qualifications require 15 Units of competency to be successfully completed and 80 hours of work placement (in a work place that whose service delivery is related to mental health).

Both courses are delivered in a blended learning & teaching environment.

There is a:

- face to face component
- on-line component and
- work placement

Students are also required to undertake study and activities in their own time, also known as private study. The amount of private study time needed will vary owing to:

- Individual learning styles
- Level of knowledge & understanding
- Personal preferences

Credit transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is available for those that wish to apply and meet the criteria. Please indicate this on your enrolment form and ensure that you talk about this at your enrolment interview.

2) How long does it go for, in weeks/months?

This will depend on which region you are undertaking the study, as delivery times are different. It also depends on the individual and their ability to undertake full time or part time study.

Full time study - Approximately 17 weeks of face to face study, 80 hours of work placement after completion of all assessment tasks (other than those required in work placement).

Part Time Study - A personalized learning plan is co-developed with the educator and the student based on needs.

We **do not** deliver training during school holidays, so the 17 weeks are not consecutive.

Please note from 2020, students undertaking their study in:

- Launceston
- St Helens or Burnie (St Helens and Burnie are not delivered every year)

The face to face component will be delivered in **2-3 consecutive days** per month.

3) How many days a week does it go for?

Hobart – 2 days per week for face to face learning (Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00am – 3:00pm)

2020 Lead Educator for Hobart is Maree Roche

Launceston, St Helens, Burnie – 2-3 consecutive days a week, once a month

2020 Lead Educator for Launceston, St. Helens & Burnie is Charmaine Redding

4) What is the cost?

Costs are detailed for both qualifications on the fee handout provided.

There are limited funded places available for those who are unemployed or casually employed. Please feel encouraged to enquire if you are after a funded place. Sadly, not all persons who apply for funding will be successful.

For those who are eligible (e.g. in receipt of government benefit) there is a discount and reduction in fees available.

We also have flexible payment options available which are detailed in Student Handbook and in Fee brochure.

5) Do you have a discount for Health Care Card holders?

Yes, it is 30% discount of the Qualification Fee. Ensure you have the latest Fee brochure as Course fees are subject to change. However if fees have been applied to your enrolment and the fee amount changes during the time you are undertaking the course your fee will remain the same as it was when you enrolled.

6) Do you train statewide?

Yes we deliver both qualifications statewide. However, in smaller regions of the state delivery and training is provided every second or third year depending on demand and number of enrolments.

7) What is the style of teaching, classroom, online?

Our courses are flexible blended learning. This means a combination of the following:

Face To Face: The course has face to face teaching (classroom based) delivered by a qualified and experienced educator (trainer & assessor). On occasions there will be invited guest speakers/lecturers to enhance your learning experience. Please note: as a requirement of the qualification you need to attend 80% of your face to face classes.

Online: Sessions delivered in classroom are also available online as a podcast (recording) for you to play back. These are made available (uploaded) 48 hours after unit (subject) delivery.

Work placement: Both qualifications require 80 hours of work placement this is usually undertaken after completion of assessments other than the

workplace assessment as you need to have a level of competence prior to undertaking work placement. Work placement will also require you to have a current (at time of work placement) Working with Vulnerable Persons and a police check (both of these are undertaken at your own expense and are not part of any funding applied to your enrolment)

Independent study: Study, assessments, service visits are also part of your course requirements.

8) When does the next intake commence?

We take expressions of interest throughout the year. Should a course not be delivered in the year in which you would like to be enrolled, you are placed on a waiting list. Persons on the waiting list are contacted **prior** to course commencement to determine if they wish to continue. If you wish to continue with your application, then an enrollment interview is scheduled for the completion of formal enrolment.

Persons on the waiting list are given first priority to funded places if eligible at time of interview.

The next intake is 2020 for Hobart, Launceston, and St Helens. We will be commencing interviews for the above locations in November 2019.

You will be contacted by phone/email to set your appointment time for the Enrollment interview - please ensure that these contact details are current. If you need to change your contact details, please ring 1300 793 011 and leave a message with your details, your phone call will be returned as soon as possible. Alternatively please email rto-connect@ths.tas.gov.au. Please

do not email any RTO staff member directly as it may not reach the person who needs to address your enquiry.

9) Where are we located?

Tasmanian Health Service Registered Training Organisation (also known locally as RTO-Connect) details are listed below:

Address: Level 2, 2 Terry Street Glenorchy 7010.

Phone: 1300 793 011

Email: rto-connect@ths.tas.gov.au

10) How do I go about applying?

1. Contact the THS RTO (see previous question) and request an enrolment package.
2. On receipt of the enrolment package – complete the enrolment form and email it back to the email address provided or hard copy post it address provided.
3. You will be notified through email when we receive this completed enrolment form. Please phone us if you have any difficulties filling out the enrolment form.
4. You will either be placed on the waiting list or the enrolment interview will be arranged with you.
5. At the interview the enrolment form will be reviewed to ensure all details are current and that all required places are signed. A Language Literacy and Numeracy test will be completed (not to rule you out of the course, it is to identify any supports that you may

require). All students must undertake this regardless of any other study they may have completed in the past, elsewhere.

6. Once this process is completed you will be notified if you have been successful or not successful in gaining a place or that you are offered a place for the next time the course is run.

11) What is required to be eligible for the full subsidy?

To be eligible for the fully subsidized place you are required to be unemployed or casually employed at the time you are formally enrolled and commence your course. There are only limited funded places available and although you may be eligible you may not receive one. If you do receive a funded place the funds are paid directly to the RTO by the funding body.

You need to indicate in the relevant place on the enrolment form that you would like a funded place. Your eligibility will be reviewed at the enrolment interview and the RTO reserves the right to check with your employer (if in a causal position that you are employed in the status you have claimed (i.e. you are a casual employee of that Organisation)).

12) How many subsidies are available?

The number of subsidized places available varies from year to year and in some years we have none available in one course or the other (or both). The RTO has to apply for them in partnership with other organisations, and there is no guarantee that we (RTO) are successful in obtaining funded places. In any one intake the maximum available is 10 places in each Qualification.

13) How many students can you take in each course?

Maximum number of students in each qualification is 10 for each intake =
10 students for Certificate IV in Mental Health
10 students for Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work

14) What is the difference between Cert IV in Mental Health & Cert IV in Mental Health Peer Work?

The major differences in the qualifications are as follows:-

1. Persons undertaking the Cert IV Mental Health Peer Work Qualification **must** have a lived experience as a person with a mental health condition or a person who cares for or has cared for someone (for example;- a family member, not as a paid role in a workplace) who has a mental health condition.
2. The roles that you intend to work in or are working in have a different focal point. Students who have Cert IV in Mental Health are usually employed in support roles in a Government or Community Service. Sometimes, these roles often involve shift and weekend work.

Conversely, a mental health peer worker, is generally employed as a Peer Worker (Peer Support) where they use their lived experience to assist others with their recovery journey by:

- helping them to navigate the systems
- use parts of their story to inspire hope
- providing support through someone who has been through a similar experience or life adjustments



The above are just a few examples outlining the differences between the two qualifications.

15) What jobs does the Cert IV in Mental Health and Cert IV in Mental Health Peer Work qualify you for?

Please see your course handouts.

If you have any other questions, please feel encouraged to contact RTO Connect.