

Centre for the Assessment of Prior Learning Interactive CD-ROM

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The Centre for the Assessment of Prior Learning (CAPL) is a department within the Otago Polytechnic, that has been established to work in partnership with any individual and his/her employer to make an assessment of previous learning and experience. It is a process that recognises and assesses learning and gives credit for life experience, employment, or courses that have been gained. The assessment process leads to either the award of a nationally recognised qualification, or part credit towards a program of study.

The aim of this project is to produce an interactive CDROM (and website) that will help CAPL clients understand the requirements of their application. With this product we hope to reduce the amount of time CAPL academic staff currently have to spend with applicants going over the requirements to fill in the assessment handbook. The Interactive CDROM will have a step-by-step guide for the CAPL applicants explaining how they should go about filling in their assessment booklet.

The CD will contain information on how the CAPL carries out its' processes, and will give real life examples of the results which can be obtained from following the process through to a natural conclusion.

The expected benefit to CAPL from having such a tool will be significant by way that:

- Applicants can be given a copy of the CD, to assist with the completion of the Summary of Skills Workbook, removing the need for the many hours necessary for one on one consultation. Consultation will still take place, however the time will be reduced significantly.
- Applicants can complete the required application forms, with on hand assistance, at a time convenient to them.

A feature that provides part answers that can be personalized to individual situations, and giving examples of completed forms, applicants will have a clearer idea of the requirements and the type of information that will be useful to their own situation. This will again reduce the amount of time required to complete the application workbook. Mann and Brown, (2000) described an interactive system for environmental accreditation. The core of that system supported farmers in a self-assessment of their environmental practices, analogous to the self-assessment CAPL candidates undergo. The EnvironAg system of Mann and Brown reduced an unsatisfactory six-month process to one that could be completed in days if not hours, even though it actually improved the worth of the process. It is hoped that by engaging candidates in a similar interactive process, the CAPL process can be similarly facilitated.

There is an imbalance between application packages that are sent out and those that are returned. It is believed that the application process is too complicated and time consuming. The development team will look to address this and return a product that will be easy to use, produce results quickly in a format that the CAPL can use to continue the assessment process.



Centre for Assessment of Prior Learning

References

Mann, S. Brown, I. (2000) *Working with Farmers: A Practical System for Proving and Improving Environmental Management* Environmental Perspectives Journal (22) 4-6 <http://www.tekotago.ac.nz>

http://203.97.22.128/capl_poster.pdf