FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - RPL

What is RPL?
RPL (Recognised Prior Learning) is a process where you can use your existing knowledge, skills and experiences (gained through life experiences and/or other employment) to demonstrate your competency in particular unit/s. When you apply for RPL, you are essentially saying 'I already know all about this unit so I don't need training'. RPL is an assessment process only and no training is provided.

What can I RPL?
Each person has different knowledge and skills. Therefore, if you think you can RPL you should...
1. Consult the qualification outline, and make a list of the unit codes you believe you may be able to RPL
2. Go to the search function on training.gov.au to enter the unit code under 'search for nationally recognised training components'
3. Read the list of knowledge and skills needed to hold competency in that unit. If you believe you already have all the knowledge and skills, then talk to your ACCCO Trainer about RPL. If you only have some knowledge and skills, you should complete a unit of competency as additional training will be needed.

How do I complete a unit through RPL?
Initially, the ACCCO trainer will identify units you could complete as RPL though discussing your current skills and abilities. Where RPL is indicated, you will be issued an RPL Assessment for the unit. This will supports you to demonstrate your skills and knowledge against unit criteria though a formal assessment process. Each RPL assessment process is different as it is customised to your work experience, history and evidence of knowledge and skills.

What are the work requirements for RPL?
You need to be currently employed in a position that allows you to demonstrate the skills required for the unit and/or qualification. For example, if you are applying for RPL of the programming units at Diploma level, you will need to hold a position where you responsible for planning and implementing the curriculum. This enables our Assessors to see you fulfilling the requirements of the unit to assess your competency. You will also need a supervisor in that workplace willing to sign you off on the competencies required.

I've heard RPL is a quicker way to finish my course. Is that true?
Definitely! However, it is only quicker if you already have the skills and knowledge needed to complete the unit. If you don't already have these skills and knowledge, you may find it will take you longer to complete the unit through RPL as you will need to research and investigate the information you need. However if you completed the unit, all the information will be provided to you and a Trainer will support you with the learning.

I've heard RPL is cheaper. Is that true?
Yes, since you are only being assessed for your skills and knowledge, you are not paying for training costs.

I've heard RPL is an easier way to finish my course. Is that true?
Yes, but once again it is only easier if you already have the skills and knowledge required. You will need to answer questions, provide evidence of your knowledge and demonstrate your skills in your workplace.

What happens if I decide to do an RPL but then discover that I don't have the knowledge and skills needed?
All you need to do is telephone ACCCO and transfer from an RPL to a unit, and pay the difference between the RPL and unit. If you submit an RPL and your Assessor makes it as Not Yet Competent due to not having sufficient skills and/or knowledge, your Assessor will request you transfer to the Unit too. This will allow you to gain the knowledge and skills required.