Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a formal assessment process that evaluates an individual's skills and knowledge gained through:

Informal learning (e.g., self-taught skills),

Non-formal learning (e.g., workplace training),

Experiential learning (e.g., on-the-job experience).

If the individual meets the required standards of a National Qualifications Framework (NQF) registered qualification or part-qualification, they may be awarded credits toward that qualification.

Why RPL
Recognition: Validates skills and knowledge acquired outside formal education.
Redress: Helps address historical inequalities by recognizing workplace competence.
Access: Provides alternative pathways into formal learning and qualifications.
Quality Assurance: Supports consistent and credible assessment practices.

Where is RPL Applicable

RPL can be applied to:

• **Occupational Qualifications**
These are full qualifications registered at SAQA on the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF), typically comprising knowledge, practical skills, and work experience components.

• **Part Qualifications**
These are components of full qualifications that can be assessed and recognized independently, often used to build toward a full qualification over time.

• **Trades**
RPL is used to recognize prior learning and experience in artisan and trade occupations, enabling candidates to access trade tests or occupational certification pathways.