

CHC81015 Graduate Diploma of Relationship Counselling – Responding to Family Violence

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the fees and are there options for payment?

Payment can be made upfront or by instalment.

- The Graduate Diploma fee for 2022 is \$13,390, inclusive of the fully supported work placement.
- A deposit of \$1000 is required upon enrolment. Instalment options are available.

For more information about fees, please see the [RTO Program Manual](#) or contact us directly.

What are the entry requirements?

To qualify for entry into the course, prospective students must have one or more of the following.

- An undergraduate degree or higher qualification in counselling, psychology, social work, social sciences, or equivalent.
- A Diploma of Counselling from the CHC Community Services Training Package, or equivalent.
- Documented evidence of previous experience in a family counselling environment in a job role involving:
 - self-directed application of knowledge with substantial depth in some areas
 - the exercise of independent judgement and decision-making
 - a range of technical and other skills.

Are there any other enrolment requirements?

Prospective students will be required to provide all of the following prior to enrolment:

- National Police Check: www.police.vic.gov.au/national-police-records-checks
- Working with Children Check (or application receipt): www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au
- Unique Student Identifier (USI): www.usi.gov.au

What is the course duration and structure?

We now offer a selection of intakes allowing you to choose the most appropriate learning experience that suits you and your current environment:

1. **Intensive Intake** - Allows students to undertake the Graduate Diploma in an 11-month period, including face-to-face delivery days, supporting by self-paced learning and a placement program.
 - a. Workshops are held on weekends with an initial induction as well as face-to-face assessment seminars outlined in the course schedule
2. **Part-time Intake** - Follows the same methodology as the intensive course, allowing students to undertake the same qualification and experiences over an 18-month duration.
 - a. Workshops are held over a combination of full-day weekend workshops, with an initial weekend induction as well as face-to-face assessment seminars as outlined in the course schedule
3. We are pleased to introduce **rural Victoria intakes in 2022**. For more information, please contact us directly.

What does self-paced online learning consist of?

For all the intakes, self-paced online learning will be allocated through an online Learning Management System. Self-paced online learning will allow students to access course materials at their speed, and convenience. Students will be expected to undertake 10-15 hours of learning per week.

How often do I need to attend on-site sessions at Relationships Australia Victoria?

Attendance is required at the following workshops and placement seminars.

- All intakes include attendance at mandatory introduction seminars and face-to-face assessment seminars as required and outlined in the course schedule
- **Intensive Intake**
 - Semester 1 – monthly workshops over 6 or months (not during school holidays).
 - Semester 2 – monthly placement seminars over 5 months.
- **Part-time Intake**
 - Semester 1 – monthly weekend workshops over 12 months (not during school holidays)
 - Semester 2 – monthly placement seminars over 6 months.

What are the attendance requirements?

It is expected that students achieve an attendance hurdle of 70% for all face-to-face seminars and field trips. Assessment seminars are mandatory and outlined in the course schedule. In the case that a student is unable to attend a face-to-face seminar advance notice must be provided to the course convenor. Applications for special consideration to attend seminars via Zoom may be arranged upon request but must be approved by the course convenor.

Where are the workshops run?

Relationships Australia Victoria
1183 Toorak Road
Camberwell Victoria 3124

Can I attend the workshops and seminars remotely?

There is some provision for remote attendance at some of the workshops during Semester 1 for each intake. Please contact us to discuss this, prior to enrolment.

How many students are in each intake group?

We aim to keep training intakes to 18 students or less.

How much time will I need each week to complete the reading and assessments?

This course is a post-graduate qualification and the content is detailed and complex. We estimate that the study load, including student placement, will require a commitment of 1-2 days per week during the course. However, the time required to complete study and assessment tasks may vary between individuals.

Do I need to organise my own work placement?

No, we will place you in one of our centres, or alternatively in a centre run by one of our partner organisations in Victoria. We will arrange and fully support the placement.

Can I choose which RAV centre I am placed at?

We will ask for your preferences and each student is placed according to learning needs and operational requirements. We will not place you at a regional centre unless you express an interest in doing so.

Can I organise my own work placement at a location of my choice?

Yes, we need to ensure that the work placement meets all course requirements and provides adequate learning opportunities and we can discuss this with you to make sure the nominated placement provider meets the criteria.

How does the placement work?

Work placements generally take 3-6 months, with the details negotiated between the student and the centre. Many centres prefer students to attend 1-2 days per week, while others prefer attendance based on client appointments. It may also be possible to attend a placement centre for a block of time, then move to ad hoc attendance. It is important that you communicate any preferences to RAV so that we can arrange your placement appropriately.

What are the employment pathways and opportunities after graduation?

Graduates can apply for a range of employment opportunities within community service organisations and government departments, working with a range of complex issues affecting relationships, including family violence.

We cannot guarantee graduates that they will access employment within RAV or other agencies after completing the course. However, through the involvement within centres during work placement, students are provided opportunities for networking and access to job opportunities after graduating.

Does the course qualify me as a couple therapist/counsellor?

The course equips graduates to fulfil a broad range of roles in the area of relationship counselling, including work with couples, individuals, families, children and adolescents. It has a particular focus on working with clients who have experienced family violence. This course also meets new industry framework and qualification requirements as determined by Family Safety Victoria.

Will I be able to register as a counsellor after the course?

As counselling is a non-regulated industry, professional registration is not required for individuals to work as counsellors. Graduates of this course can apply for membership with various counselling organisations, but these memberships are not an industry requirement for employment as a counsellor and sit outside the scope of this course.

This course provides graduates with a qualification that they can use to apply for various positions within government, community services and private sectors.