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1. **How is the course structured?**

The course is delivered via mixed mode, which means a combination of on campus and virtual online days plus self-paced study days.

* **On Campus:** You must attend these days
* **Virtual (online):** You must attend these sessions but can do so remotely or from the TasTAFE Campus. Virtual online learning sessions are not recorded,
* **Self-paced study days**: These days are scheduled for you to complete readings, watch videos, and complete research in readiness for your on-campus day. The online learning is available to you 24 hours a day, and content is released & published by the Teacher.

Students will be given a timetable at the commencement of the course.

There are 13 units to complete in this course, 7 Core units and 6 Elective units. Please see our website for more details on the units.

1. **How demanding is the course?**

The course can be physically demanding and on work placement you will be expected to:

* Undertake the duties of an Individual Support Worker.
* Be able to stand for long periods of time. Be able to move and use lifting equipment.
* The study and course work requires additional work and research in addition to the scheduled learning days.
* Providing Personal care is a requirement of the course work, and you will be provided with the necessary training to equip you with the skills. Once employed you may be in a role that requires minimal personal care tasks, however, to complete the course you will need to successfully complete all the simulation assessment tasks.

1. **Will someone with a mild back problem be accepted into this course?**

You are not required to provide us with information about your physical health to enter the course, we provide interested students with information about the course demands, so you can make a fully informed decision.

### I am interested in both Aged Care and Disability. Can I do both at the same time?

No not currently. If you are interested in both specialisations you can apply for both, but must choose only one offer when accepting a place in either course to enrol in.

For units that are the same, a credit transfer will apply (subject to currency), and this would reduce fees. Evidence for credit transfer is required at application stage.

For Semester 2,2023 – Only the Aged Care specialisation will be available.

### How is Work Placement arranged?

* Work placement is arranged by TasTAFE, and consideration is given to the geographic location of student.
* Work placement is full time (**5 days per week – Monday – Friday for at least 4 weeks).** The work placement dates occur throughout the course and the times will vary. (eg. earlier starts – 7am, some later finishes 11pm).
* Work placement is unpaid.
* Students must be prepared to travel within a region to work placement and arrange childcare as required.

1. **Can I work and study at the same time?**

It is very difficult to work and complete the full-time course.

1. **I already work as a Support Worker; can I use my current employment for placement?**

This depends on the type of work you do and how many people you support. Work placement is for assessment and must meet a minimum criterion to qualify. Your teacher will work with you to identify if you require an additional placement to meet the assessment requirements.

1. **What about traineeships?**

We support trainees for employers willing to sponsor their staff. This is initiated by Employers, is a different enrolment process and has a minimum requirement of employment hours. Employers generally contact us to initiate this.

### What are my employment prospects?

Over 85% of our students gain employment in Disability & Aged Care.

We recommend finishing the course before accepting employment, as it can be very difficult to complete when working long hours and non- attendance affects your progression in the course. There is currently a high demand for Individual Support Workers.

### What checks and vaccinations do I need?

* You will need to have a current National Police check & Working with Vulnerable People Registration. The teachers will guide you on when to apply for a police check.
* Our host employers require a current National Police Check – Schedule 1 for Disability & National Police check Annulled Record for Aged Care
* If you already have a Working with Vulnerable People registration – you do not need to apply for a new one. You may be directed to add in some additional checks, and your teacher will provide you with this information after enrolment.
* You will also need to have evidence of current vaccination status for COVID 19 (including all boosters) and in Aged Care – will need evidence of a flu vaccination. This is required for work placements.

### Why do I need to do an online literacy and numeracy task?

The literacy and numeracy task (BKSB) is to ensure people entering the course have the minimum literacy and numeracy skills to successfully progress through the course. Once you apply, the link will be made available to you, and you must complete successfully to progress the application process. This enables us to support any learning gaps you may have, or recommend relevant study supports.

Commence the application process and the BKSB link will be provided to you.

### I have studied a different course before with similar units, do I have to attend everything?

* Recognition for previous qualifications will depend on the unit codes and qualification you may have already completed. Prior knowledge may assist with completing the course work. Your teacher would work with you to identify any sessions or assignments you may be excused from.
* We always recommend full attendance as the course is delivered holistically and has information provided within the specialised context.

**13. Does this course meet Centrelink requirements?**

All our Individual support courses meet the Centrelink requirements for a full-time study load.

**14. I have more questions?**

That’s great! Contact us to discuss your individual questions or circumstance.

Please call **1300 655 307**. It helps if you tell us the region you are calling from and whether it is about the Disability or Aged Care course. Our friendly call centre staff can assist in directing you to the best person to respond to your enquiry from the Ageing, Disability & Health Specialities teaching team.