What is Structured Community-based Learning (SCL)?

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) quality assures a wide range of learning that counts towards the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

A recognised Structured Community-based Learning (SCL) is a course recognised by the QCAA that delivers a significant amount of learning in a community organisation or in the broader community. Participants of SCL courses would engage in structured activities that address community needs and promote learning and development. SCL courses:

- deliver lifelong learning skills
- involve the engagement of people in community capacity building
- involve learning and assessment from community representatives
- supplement core studies that may be done at school or with a registered training organisation.

Note: Recognised SCL is not a component of a training package, an accredited VET course, or a QCAA-approved or accredited course (such as an Authority school subject).

The QCAA has developed a quality assurance process to formally recognise SCL courses. If an SCL course meets the criteria for recognition, a young person can use the result towards the achievement of their QCE.

What are the benefits of SCL?

For organisations

- Establishes networks and contacts for future recruitment of volunteers
- Builds interest in the organisation and its purpose
- Creates links with students while still at school
- Promotes equity
- Assistance with course development

For students

- Enhances community engagement
- Builds community networks and opens post-school opportunities
- Delivers real-world experiences
- Adds value to school studies

More information

For more information on recognition requirements, together with samples and templates for developing course materials, visit the QCAA website or email: recognition@qcaa.qld.edu.au or phone: (07) 3864 0395.