

# CHC51122

## DIPLOMA OF FINANCIAL COUNSELLING

*The Diploma of Financial Counselling is a nationally recognised qualification where students gain the knowledge and skills required to work as a financial counsellor in Australia.*



**LOCATION**  
Live online



**DURATION**  
6-24 months



**STRUCTURE**  
17 units



**COURSE FEES**  
\$6,000-\$9,000



**ENTRY**  
LLN test/ interview

Financial counsellors

- provide free, independent and confidential information, advocacy and support with and for people in financial difficulty.
- are not financial planners or advisors and do not charge fees for services.
- Must be employed by an agency that meets requirements of the ASIC exemption from a Credit Licence or a Financial Services Licence.

Financial counsellors work to improve the lives of people impacted by financial hardship using legal frameworks to advocate for solutions and counselling skills to assist clients understand their situation and options.

### STUDY OPTIONS

The course is offered in a range of delivery modalities to meet the needs of students. Flexible options include:

#### STANDARD (PART-TIME)

Ideal for students who are new to the community services and financial counselling sector

- Part-time study loan
- 18-24 month enrolment period
- 3-hour weekly live online class
- 4-6 hour additional weekly study commitment

#### FAST-TRACK (FULL-TIME)

Great for students already working in the community services sector wanting to pursue a financial counselling career who may have some RPL

- Full-time study load
- 12 month enrolment period
- 5.5-hour weekly online classes
- 6-8 hour additional weekly study commitment

#### HYBRID (PART SELF-PACED)

Great for students with previous study experience at Diploma level or higher in social work, community services, accounting or business motivated for a change of career.

- Full-time study load
- 12 month enrolment period
- 6 units compulsory live online classes
- 11 units self-paced
- Rolling intake
- 8-10 hour weekly study commitment
- Trainer engagement & support as required

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no course prerequisite qualifications for the Standard and Fast-Track models, however students are required to:

- demonstrate diploma level literacy and numeracy skills
- commit at the suggested hours of personal study time
- participate in required online classes
- have the ability to work collaboratively using digital media platforms
- participate in a pre-training interview

Applicants should have interest and/ or relevant experience in the social and community services field and have the maturity and interpersonal skills to work with a diverse range of people.

In order to study the Hybrid model, students must have completed a Diploma level qualification or higher in Social Worker, Community Services, Accounting, Business, or any other related field and/or have more than 3 years' experience in the Community Services field. Students who are currently employed in a financial counselling role with other qualifications will also be eligible to apply.

#### COURSE DELIVERY & ASSESSMENT

Competency is the consistent application of knowledge and skill to the standard of performance required in the workplace. As this is a competency-based course, the assessments will involve the demonstration of skill, knowledge, and the ability to work consistently to the standards required. The assessment tasks include short answer questions, case studies, third party reports and workplace learning.

Access to all learning materials and assessments task will be available through our online learning management system, VASTO. You will be provided with a Learner Guide for each unit which contains extensive content related to that unit of study. You will also be provided with a range of additional resources to not only support you with your study but also with your work in the sector.

#### PLACEMENT

Successful completion of the qualification requires 220 hours of Learning in the Workplace. This is not negotiable and is part of the performance evidence for this qualification.

ICAN Learn will support students throughout their placement from beginning to end including support to find a suitable placement.

#### ON COMPLETION

On completion of the course, graduates will be equipped to work as professional financial counsellors, providing, confidential, and independent support to individuals experiencing financial hardship.

They will have gained specialist knowledge, practical skills, and workplace experience across a range of community settings. Graduates will be job-ready, supported by expert mentoring and placement, and able to make a meaningful impact in the lives of vulnerable individuals and communities.



**ENROL AT**  
[WWW.ICANLEARN.EDU.AU](http://WWW.ICANLEARN.EDU.AU)

“

*Financial Counselling is a wonderful sector to be a part of, I love it so much. It doesn't matter what age you are when you start studying, you can make a real impact in people's lives that could change the course of their life.”* **STUDENT FEEDBACK**

### RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING

'Rural financial counselling' is a different profession than 'financial counselling' and provides services to primary producers in financial hardship, using additional legislation e.g., the Farm Debt Mediation Act. The qualification for this role is distinguished by a 3-unit specialisation that is part of the Diploma of Financial Counselling.

### FEES

Fees are payable over a scheduled invoicing period. More information about fees and payment options including VET student loans can be found on our website.

### SKILLS RECOGNITION

Skills recognition is available following enrolment and subject to a formal assessment process that measures the candidate's skills and knowledge from previous study, training, work or life experiences against the outcomes of the qualification in which they are enrolled. More information about skills recognition is available from our website.

If you have completed exactly the same unit with the same course code and you can provide original evidence of completion of the unit, you may be eligible for a Credit Transfer for that unit. If approved, that means you do not have to repeat or undertake that unit and the result is 'transferred' to contribute to your results.

### COURSE UNITS

#### CORE SUBJECTS

CHCADV001	Facilitate the Interests and Rights of Clients
CHCDIV001	Work with diverse people
CHCFIN006	Establish the financial counselling relationship
CHCFIN007	Provide advice, counselling and representation to financial counselling clients
CHCFIN008	Apply professional standards in financial counselling
CHCFIN009	Provide financial counselling and systemic advocacy within a social justice framework
CHCFIN010	Apply basic concepts of small business to financial counselling
CHCLEG002	Interpret and use legal information
CHCCSL001	Establish and confirm the counselling relationship
CHCCSL002	Apply specialist interpersonal and counselling interview skills
CHCCSL007	Support counselling clients in decision-making processes
CHCPRP003	Reflect on and improve own professional practice
CHCCCS019	Recognise and respond to crisis situations
CHCCDE018	Develop and implement community programs

#### ELECTIVES\*

CHCSOH013	Work with people experiencing or at risk of homelessness
CHCCSM012	Coordinate complex case requirements
CHCDFV001	Recognise and respond appropriately to domestic and family violence

\*If any of the following units are held, student may use credit transfer to replace CHCDFV001, CHCCSM012 or CHCSOH013

CHCDIV002	Promote Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural safety
CHCMHS005	Provide services to people with co-existing mental health and alcohol and other drugs issues
CHCCCS003	Increase the safety of individuals at risk of suicide



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