

Thank you for your interest in obtaining a Horse Safety Australia Qualification.

## **The process to achieve a qualification with HSA involves several components:**

1. Complete and lodge the application form for approval **AND SELECT WHICH** Workshop location you can attend.
2. Once approved you will be provided access to the Modules (pay as you go for each online) and be invoiced for your Workshop deposit as detailed below.
3. Successfully complete online modules to receive a completion Certificate for each one.
4. Attend a 3-day Workshop where you will complete practical exercises (horse handling, lessons, trail riding) to demonstrate where your skill levels lie and complete a Written Assessment.
5. After the Workshop you will receive a report on your demonstrated abilities, and it will indicate whether you are at certification level (and a certificate will then be issued) or if more work/experience is required.
6. If your report advises that you are not ready yet, we will provide various pathway options and work with you to achieve your certification goals. This may be that more experience is required and final qualification can be applied for at a later date. Assessment can then be done via video or attending a day at a Workshop where possible.
7. Evidence of current First Aid certification and relevant Working with Children or Police checks (depending on your State requirements) **must be provided before a qualification can be issued.**

## **Online Modules**

The modules for the qualification level you require should be successfully completed before you attend your Workshop. They must be completed before any qualification can be issued.

The content of the modules includes risk management, horse fundamentals, working safely with horses, emergency procedures, effective teaching and communication, and trail ride management.

**Please contact HSA prior to starting your Modules if you have any language or literacy needs.**

***Horse Safety Australia will also offer options for applicants who require individual support with learning and/or practical experience to gain a qualification.***

These additional supports will be at a nominal hourly rate and include:

- individual tutoring by appointment
- mentoring opportunities with HSA qualified instructors
- training and professional development opportunities with a range of professionals

## **Workshops**

3-day workshops are run at different states throughout the year. You can book into one of these when you sign up for your first module or any time after you start. Places are limited.

At the Workshop we will provide practical instruction and demonstration of the skills expected to achieve a qualification in accordance with the principles of the on-line modules that you have completed. You will then be able to practice and demonstrate your current skill level.

We will observe your practical skills and determine where your current level of competence sits in relation to the qualification that you are seeking. An individual report will be issued after the workshop which will guide you on the ensuing steps that may need to be taken to progress to a final qualification. You may need more practice or general experience, so we will guide you towards achieving that goal and ultimately a full qualification.

## Physical Requirements

Before you apply, apart from the completion of the above, there are some minimum physical standards that you **must** be able to meet to receive a qualification:

1. As a potential riding **Instructor**, you must be able to demonstrate that you are a **capable rider at the trot and canter**, or if physically unable to do so, provide evidence that you have had this ability in the past (historical details of experience etc).
2. As a potential **Trail Guide**, you must demonstrate at the Workshop that you are able to:
  - a. **Mount a horse from the ground.** (*Our preference is always to use a mounting block – however it is important that you are physically able to mount from the ground due to the nature of your role as a Trail Guide*). And **Dismount to ground level unaided.**
  - b. **Be capable of “Ponying”** – This is the ability to lead another horse safely with a rider on board from your horse (this is essential in your role as a Trail Guide).

***If you are assessed as competent once the Workshop is completed and your Written Assessment marked, then you will be issued a qualification certificate.***

To receive a qualification, you must have achieved competency in all the following areas:

- **Safety Awareness and Risk Management**
- **Communication and Teaching/Coaching Ability**
- **Group Control/Supervision Skills**
- **Equine Knowledge and Management**
- **Presentation and Professionalism**

***For those attendees who may be anticipating a qualification immediately following a workshop it is our expectation that you would already be working within the industry. You would also have to have demonstrated that you are well-practiced at handling, riding, teaching lessons or working as a trail guide safely and in line with Industry Guides and codes.***

Horse Safety Australia's primary goal is to promote a high standard of safety in whichever pursuit you may be involved in. Our expectation of those seeking qualifications is that any activity must be conducted in a safe and professional manner and in compliance with the various WorkSafe and Industry Specific Guides and Codes.

**We look forward to working with you.**

**Horse Safety Australia**