



Social Workers Registration Board

Kāhui Whakamana Tauwhiro

SWRB Policy Document: The process for recognition of social work qualifications in New Zealand universities (3 March 2006)

At its meeting of 3 March 2006, The Social Workers Registration Board adopted the following process for the recognition of new social work programmes in New Zealand universities:

1) Desk Audit

Providers will be asked to supply full programme documentation to enable a desk audit of the programme to be conducted against the Board's programme Standards:

Programme Recognition Standards (Bachelor degree in social work)

Programme Recognition Standards (Postgraduate qualifications in social work)

Such documentation to be provided to the Board will include:

- Programme proposal and Curriculum Statements
- Information about student selection
- Information about field work arrangements and support
- Appointment policies, Staff Curriculum Vitae

2) Site Visit

The Board will undertake a one to two day site visit to enable meetings with university management and staff, students, advisory committee members and student supervisors.

The site visit to be carried out by two representatives of the Board. The panel members may be board members, staff from the secretariat and/or other suitable persons approved for the role by the Education and Practice Standards committee.

3) Fees and costs

A fee of \$6000 plus GST will be charged for the desk audit and a single site visit in New Zealand. Additional visits may be required if the programme is delivered at more than one site. Actual and reasonable costs will be charged for any additional site visits or concurrent programme approvals.

Background

In 2004 the Board published a schedule of current qualifications, and those retired or superseded, that were deemed recognised qualifications for the purpose of establishing one of the criteria for registration. All those holding or enrolled in the programme of study leading to those qualifications, as at 31 December 2005, will meet these criteria and are not obliged to gain another qualification.

The Board has established a list of the qualifications it will recognise from 2006 onwards.

The Board has determined that this will be a Bachelors degree in social work or a postgraduate qualification in social work.

Our policy on the recognition of new programmes was circulated in August 2005 along with the Programme Recognition Checklist (for Bachelors degrees in social work). This document has been successfully used in the process to consider social work degrees in polytechnics in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding with the ITP Quality.

In developing this policy in respect of university social work qualifications the Board has used as a model the processes utilized by comparable professional regulatory bodies.

The documents the Programme Recognition Standards (Bachelor degree in social work) and the Programme Recognition Standards (Postgraduate qualifications in social work) may be found on the Board's website www.swrb.org.nz