



**Social Workers
Registration Board**

Kāhui Whakamana Tauwhiro

ENTITLEMENT TO REGISTRATION

CRITERIA FOR S.13 REGISTRATION

POLICY STATEMENT

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1. Introduction.

The Social Workers Registration Act (2003) requires the Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB) to establish clear criteria for the registration of social workers.

Social Workers Registration Act
Section 13:

- 13 Board may recognise practical experience in certain cases
- (1) The Board may decide that the applicant should be registered fully if—
- (a) he or she has neither a recognised New Zealand qualification nor an overseas qualification equivalent to a recognised New Zealand qualification; but
 - (b) the Board is satisfied that—
 - (i) his or her practical experience in practising social work in New Zealand is enough to compensate for the lack of such a qualification; and
 - (ii) his or her competence to practise social work has been found satisfactory under Part 3; and
 - (iii) he or she is a fit and proper person to practise social work; and
 - (iv) that (whether as a result of his or her satisfactory completion of a course or courses of training, or because his or her practical experience in practising social work in New Zealand is enough to compensate for not having completed such a course) he or she—
 - (A) is competent to practise social work with Maori; and
 - (B) is competent to practise social work with different ethnic and cultural groups in New Zealand.

It should be noted that registration under this section is discretionary. If the Board considers that registration under section 13 is not appropriate the Board may consider registration under other sections of this Act.

2. Rationale

The SWRB believes it is in the interests of the public and the social work profession for registration to be accorded to those unqualified social workers with extensive experience in the profession in New Zealand who have demonstrated their competence in terms of practice, supervision, professional development and other contributions to the profession.

This recognises the experience and contribution of these social workers and helps protect the public by including these workers under the provisions of the act e.g. Code of Conduct and Disciplinary processes.

3. Social work practice

Those persons whose profession is social work but whose job title may or may not be social worker, may be eligible for section 13 registration. They will be required to demonstrate the application of skills, knowledge and practice in a manner that is consistent with the International Federation of Social Work (IFSW) definition of Social Work and the Code of Ethics of the profession.

4. Enough practical experience to compensate for the lack of a NZ qualification or equivalent overseas qualification (Section 13)

Applications will be considered by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

4.1 The Board will take into account the range, length, quality and nature of the Social Work practical experience in making a decision based on the following criteria:

- The extent to which the applicant has practised social work in New Zealand.
- The extent to which the applicant has participated in regular training and professional development relevant to social work in the course of their practice.
- The extent to which the applicant is able to demonstrate that their practical experience compensates for the lack of a social work qualification.

This should be clearly documented and evidenced in the application form against the identified components derived from qualifications on the SWRB Schedule of Recognised New Zealand Social Work Qualifications (See Appendix One).

4.2 The Board notes that some applicants may have completed a postgraduate qualification in social work which is not listed on the SWRB schedule of recognised current and historic qualifications because the qualification does not include social work placement experience and other requirements of formally recognised social work qualifications.

5. Future of Section 13

The SWRB expects that the need for registration under Section 13 will diminish over time as social work progresses towards a fully qualified profession. The SWRB will consider recommending the repeal of section 13 as part of the next review of the SWR Act in 2010.

Appendix One

Social Workers Registration Act 2003 S13 (b)

(i) My Practical Experience in practicing social work is enough to compensate for the lack of such a qualification

(iv) that (whether as a result of my satisfactory completion of a course or courses of training **or** because my practical experience in practising social work in NZ is enough to compensate for not have completed such a course)

Ko Te Timatanga – (The Beginning)

An introduction to appropriate responses when working with iwi Māori in human services work in Aotearoa.

Manaaki Tangata

The rights, roles and responsibilities for working with iwi Māori in human services contexts in Aotearoa.

Families and Change in New Zealand

Theories and models of family change and problem solving, counselling and resolution skills in family settings.

Community Dynamics and Services

Patterns of community life and change, with perspectives on community life and care services.

New Zealand Social Services Analysis and Theory

Organisational theory, patterns of organisational change and their application within the New Zealand social service context.

The Treaty and Social Services

The application of the Treaty of Waitangi in social services in New Zealand.

Interpersonal Change

Theories and models of personal change and interpersonal counselling across selected fields of practice.

Family Issues: Explanations and Practice

Understanding and assessing the differing explanations for the nature and cause of family issues and their implications for practice solution.

Social Problems: Policies and Solutions

Methods and theories of social and personal change in problems of society.

Fieldwork 1

Introduction and orientation in social service and community settings and supervised practical work in the field.

Fieldwork 2

Advanced fieldwork practice.

