



# Social Workers Registration Board

Kāhui Whakamana Tauwhiro

## **SWRB Policy Document: The process for recognition of social work qualifications in New Zealand Wananga, Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics (June 2007)**

At its meeting of 29 June 2007, The Social Workers Registration Board adopted the following process for the recognition of new social work programmes in New Zealand Wananga, Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics:

### **1) Memorandum of Understanding with New Zealand Qualifications Authority.**

This MoU provides for the NZQA, ITPQ and SWRB to work collaboratively to establish an integrated parallel process for all applications for course approval/recognition. Wherever possible the SWRB recognition process will be undertaken under the terms of this MoU.

However in instances where the involvement of NZQA/ITPQ is not required then the following will apply.

### **2) 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 Wananga, Institute of Technology or Polytechnic 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. In cases of

multiple site delivery the site visit will be undertaken by at least one Board representative.

### **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.

### **4) SWRB requirements in addition to NZQA/ITPQ requirements.**

In some instances there may be a requirement for the SWRB panel representative to visit sites as part of a recognition process where, for historical reasons the site visit is not required as part the NZQA/ITPQ accreditation process. In these instances actual and reasonable costs will be charged.

## **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.

In January 2006 the Board established a schedule of currently recognised New Zealand social work qualifications.

The Board determined that the recognised qualifications were either 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 NZQA

In developing this policy in respect of Wananga, Institutes of Technology and Polytechnic 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](http://www.swrb.org.nz)