



**Social Workers
Registration Board**

Kāhui Whakamana Tauwhiro

**THE PROCESS FOR RECOGNITION OF
SOCIAL WORK
QUALIFICATIONS IN NEW ZEALAND**

POLICY STATEMENT

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Background:

In 2004 the Board established schedules of qualifications that were deemed recognised qualifications for the purpose of establishing one of the criteria for registration.

The Board also established a list of qualifications that it would recognise from 1 January 2006. These qualifications are either a Bachelors degree in Social Work, a Post-graduate Diploma in Social Work or a Masters in Social Work.

For the purposes of ongoing recognition and re-recognition the Board has established a programme recognition process. The Board has determined that the maximum period for recognition is 5 years. Further the Board has determined that recognition will be site specific.

Re-recognition will normally occur in the last year of current recognition. However, based on annual reporting information or stakeholder feedback, the Board may determine that the re-recognition process needs to be implemented at an earlier date.

The Board has a Memorandum of Understanding with the New Zealand Qualifications Authority to facilitate the recognition and re-recognition process for Wananga, Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics.

Process:

The process for recognition and re-recognition incorporates the following:

1. Desk Audit – Part 1.

Providers are required to supply full programme documentation to enable a desk audit by Board staff of the programme against the Board's criteria. The Board's criteria are set out in the Programme recognition/re-recognition schedule which comprises three sections.

Section 1 lists the competencies that all students are expected to meet at a beginning level on completion of their academic programme.

Section 2 lists the graduate profile that is the minimum expected outcome for students completing a SWRB recognised social work qualification.

Section 3 lists the programme standards for recognised social work programmes in New Zealand. These standards provide a checklist for providers to ensure that relevant supporting documentation is provided.

2. Desk Audit – Part 2

A further desk audit is then carried out by a representative of the SWRB Maori, Pacific, Cultural and Ethnic Group to ensure that as per sections 100 & 101 of the SWR Act the Board maintains mechanisms to ensure that there are at all times readily accessible to it the views of Maori as Tangata Whenua, Pacific people and other ethnic and cultural groups.

3. Site Visit

The Board will undertake a site visit, normally of two days, to enable meetings with programme provider staff, management, students, fieldwork educators and advisory committee members. The panel will visit each site that provides the programme.

The panel members for the site visit will be staff from the Board and external representatives appointed by the Board.

Wherever possible the Board will work with programme providers so that the Board's process works in conjunction with institutional QA mechanisms. For institutions covered by the MOU with NZQA wherever possible the panel visit will be conducted concurrently with an NZQA/ITPQ panel visit.

At the end of the site visit the panel will discuss with staff of the programme any recommendations or requirements that they will include in the final report.

4. Reporting

The panel will provide the programme leader with a draft report to check for factual accuracy before the report and recommendations are forwarded to the Board. The programme will be invited to provide a response to the requirements before the report is forwarded to the Board.

5. Fees and Costs:

A fee of up to \$15,000 (plus GST) based on full cost recovery will normally be charged for the programme recognition process at a single site in New Zealand. Actual and reasonable costs may be charged for additional sites or concurrent programme approval.