



**Social Workers
Registration Board**

Kāhui Whakamana Tauwhiro

ENTITLEMENT TO REGISTRATION

CRITERIA FOR S.13 REGISTRATION

POLICY STATEMENT

Approved: August 2009
For review: August 2011

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:

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 cultural 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.

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

All evidence should be documented 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.

Appendix One

Section 13: Minimum Social Work Outcomes to be evidenced (Degree level)

Provide evidence of your introductory knowledge of social work practice:

Key areas:

- Introduction to sociology, psychology and human development
- Introduction to the Treaty of Waitangi and the multi-cultural nature of New Zealand society.

Indicators	Evidence
Knowledge of introductory psychology and its application to working in human services. Identification of an understanding of human behaviour in social settings.	
Knowledge of the theories of lifespan development. Identification of the key issues affecting human development and its relevance and application to the work of Social Workers.	
Knowledge of effective personal and professional communication in the social work setting.	
Knowledge of the traditions of sociological analysis and its application in social work. Identification of the key ideas and debates within sociology, and their relevance to social work.	
Knowledge of how culture and diversity impact on individuals, whanau and communities in Aotearoa.	
Knowledge of the Treaty of Waitangi and its significance in regard to historical events, trends and theories of social, economic and political change in Aotearoa New Zealand society.	
Knowledge of the history and practice of social work and the wider policy environment of the profession of social work.	
Evidence notes	

Provide evidence of having continued to build on your knowledge of social work practice:

Key areas:

- Developmental Social Work Skills
- Introduction to the law and policy as it relates to social work practice.

Indicators	Evidence
Knowledge of the process of policy review and development. Identification of the procedures involved as well as providing an example of policy development or critique.	
Identification of the personal and professional impact of the Treaty of Waitangi on your social work practice and your obligations to bi-cultural practice.	
Knowledge of the key skills of social work practice: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engagement 2. Assessment 3. Intervention 4. Referral 5. Evaluation 	
Knowledge of a range of theories and models of practice in social work and evidence of their application in your social work practice. Knowledge and evidence of personal and professional values, relevant codes of ethics, cultural practice and professional supervision.	
Knowledge of the structural, emotional, social and cultural dimensions of families within New Zealand. Identification of cultural diversity and knowledge of appropriate interventions in culturally diverse family practice.	
Knowledge of the legal framework that impacts on social workers' mandate to practice in New Zealand. Identification of specific law that relates to individual areas of practice.	
Evidence notes	

Provide evidence of theoretical and practical development to build on your knowledge of social work practice:

Key areas:

- Theory, Practice, Research
- Knowledge of the wider social work practice of other practitioners.

Indicators	Evidence
Knowledge of a range of social work methods and theories. Identify the model of practice that you use in your own individual practice approach.	
Knowledge and identification of the principles, theories and approaches that you have used to inform your own research.	
Knowledge of the dynamics of social work practice with mental health service users.	
Knowledge and understanding of child abuse and neglect and identification of the strategies for safe professional practice in child protection.	
Knowledge and identification of the variety of organisations in which social services are practised.	
Knowledge and identification of different ethnic or cultural organisations working with their own people/groups e.g. Pasifika organisations working with Pasifika communities in New Zealand. Provide an example of your knowledge of the traditional and contemporary requirements for working with a particular ethnic and/or cultural group.	
Identify how you incorporate Māori kawa (protocol), tikanga (custom) and ture (justice) within your workplace and provide an example of its application in your practice.	
Identify theories and models of practice in counselling that you use in within your workplace and provide an example of its application in your practice. Identify the preparation you undertake when working with individuals and whanau of a different ethnic and/or cultural background.	
Provide an example of your exploration of relevant social work research literature and how you used this to either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formulate a research or service evaluation proposal; or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Design and implement a research strategy; or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilise a research outcome in your workplace. 	
Provide an example of how a major social trend has impacted on your social work practice or social work in general and the effect of this in the public domain.	
Evidence notes	

Provide evidence of advanced knowledge and implementation of social work theory and practice:

Key areas:

- Identification of specific social work practice relevant to an identified specialist area of social work practice if applicable.

Indicators	Evidence
Explain your role both within your community and institutional setting. Identify how key strategies, structure and funding in your specialist area of social work practice (e.g. Health, Child and Family Practice, Youth, Statutory Social Work, Community, Cultural, etc.) and your own social work skills interact when working with clients.	
Evidence notes	