



**Social Workers  
Registration Board**

**Kāhui Whakamana Tauwhiro**

## **ENTITLEMENT TO REGISTRATION**

### **CRITERIA FOR SECTION 7 REGISTRATION**

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

Approved: August 2009  
For review: August 2011

## 1. Introduction

The Social Workers Registration Act 2003 requires that the Social Work Registration Board establish criteria for the registration of social workers.

Section 7 entitles a person who does not have a recognised New Zealand qualification to be registered if the board is satisfied that .

- (a) he or she has an overseas qualification equivalent to a recognised New Zealand qualification (except to the extent that it may not include a component whose satisfactory completion ensures that its holder-
  - (i) is competent to practise social work with Maori; and
  - (ii) is competent to practise social work with different ethnic and cultural groups in New Zealand; and
- (b) either-
  - (i) he or she is registered or licensed as a social worker, or as the practitioner of a profession equivalent to that of a social worker, in a state other than New Zealand (whether the State in which the equivalent qualification was obtained or some other state); or
  - (ii) there are good reasons for his or her not being so registered or licensed; and
- (c) he or she has satisfactorily completed a course or courses of training ensuring that he or she-
  - (i) is competent to practise social work with Maori; and
  - (ii) is competent to practise social work with different ethnic and cultural groups in New Zealand; and
- (d) he and she can speak and write English reasonably effectively, and understand spoken and written English reasonably well; and
- (e) he or she has enough practical experience in practising social work; and,
- (f) his or her competence to practise social work has been found satisfactory under Part 3; and
- (g) he or she is a fit and proper person to practise social work; and
- (h) he or she intends to live and practise social work in New Zealand.

## **2. Board Requirements**

### **Equivalence to a Recognised New Zealand Qualification**

Section 7(a) states that an applicant who does not have a recognised New Zealand qualification is entitled to registration, provided that they have the equivalent to a New Zealand qualification (except to the extent that it may not include a component whose satisfactory completion ensures that its holder-(i) is competent to practise with Maori and (ii) is competent to practise with different ethnic and cultural groups in New Zealand).

The process for establishing equivalence to New Zealand recognised qualifications required for registration will be to assess overseas qualifications as follows:

- Applicants who gained or commenced their overseas social work qualification prior to December 31 2005, will have their qualifications compared to the qualifications on the New Zealand Schedule of recognised New Zealand current social work qualifications prior to 31 December 2005. The qualifications of overseas applicants will not be required to cover curriculum content in relation to Maori and different ethnic and cultural groups in New Zealand
- Applicants who commence their qualification after December 31 2005 will have their qualification compared to Board recognised New Zealand Bachelor Degrees in Social Work or Board recognised Post graduate qualifications in social work. The qualifications of overseas applicants will not be required to include curriculum content in relation to the Treaty of Waitangi, Maori and different ethnic and cultural groups in New Zealand.

In addition, consideration will be given to relevant in-country requirements for recognition of social work qualifications, at the time the qualification was completed, where available.

Applicants who do not meet the qualification equivalency requirements for registration may be provisionally registered subject to completion of a prescribed program of study designed to meet equivalence requirements.

The Board will progressively develop comity, or mutual recognition, agreements with other jurisdictions.<sup>1</sup>

### **Overseas Registration or License**

Section 7 (b) requires that the Board establish whether an applicant has been registered/licensed to practise overseas and if not why not. Information and supporting documentation will be requested relating to this requirement.

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<sup>1</sup> Information on these agreements are an appendix to this policy

### **Competence to Practise social work with Maori and competence to practice social work with different ethnic and cultural groups**

Section 7 (c) (i) & (ii) requires that an overseas qualified applicant is entitled to be registered if he or she has completed a course or courses of training which ensures that he or she is competent to practise social work with Maori and competent to practice social work with different ethnic and cultural groups in New Zealand.

The Board's policy on Entitlement to Registration - Competence to Practice Social work with Maori and Different Ethnic and Cultural Groups will apply.

### **English Language Competence**

Under Section 7 (d) of the Act an overseas qualified applicant is required to speak and write English reasonably effectively, and understand spoken and written English reasonably well.

The Board's policy on Entitlement to Registration . English Language Competence and English Language Testing will apply.

### **Enough Practical Experience**

Section 7 (e) of the Act states that an applicant is required to have enough practical experience in practising social work.

The Board's policy on Entitlement to Registration - Enough Practical Experience will apply.

### **Competence to Practise Social Work**

Section 7 (f) of the Act states that an applicant's competence to practise social work has been found satisfactory under Part 3.

The Board's policy on Entitlement to Registration - Competence will apply.

### **Fit and Proper**

Section 7 (g) of the Act states that an applicant must be a fit and proper person to practise social work.

The Board's policy on Entitlement to Registration . Fit and Proper Person will apply.

### **Intention to Live and Practise Social Work in New Zealand**

Section 7(h) of the Act requires that an overseas qualified social worker is only entitled to be registered if they can demonstrate that they intend to live and practise social work in New Zealand.

The Board will substantiate an applicant's legal entitlement to live and work in New Zealand by seeking information and supporting documentation regarding citizenship, residency, and/or a visa or permit to work in New Zealand.

**Appendix 1**

1. Qualifications from applicants who gained their social work qualification in England and who are registered with the General Social Care Council will be deemed to have a qualification equivalent to a New Zealand social work qualification.