



**Social Workers  
Registration Board**  
Kāhui Whakamana Tauwhiro

**ENTITLEMENT TO REGISTRATION**  

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCE AND ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE TESTING**

**POLICY STATEMENT**

Approved: August 2009  
For review: August 2011

### **Rationale**

The Social Workers Registration Board considers effective English and communication skills are a pre-requisite to safe social work practice. An objective communications skills test is the best way of ensuring that registered social work practitioners can comprehend and communicate effectively. The SWRA Section 7 (d) requires that the Board is satisfied that applicants for registration who do not have a recognised New Zealand qualification can speak and write English reasonably effectively, and understand spoken and written English reasonably well.

### **Policy**

All applicants for registration who have a recognised New Zealand qualification are deemed to have English language competence.

All applicants from countries where the medium of instruction and assessment in secondary schooling and professional education is English are deemed to have demonstrated English competence. In these cases applicants are required to provide evidence of English language competence, in English, from at least two placement or work supervisors who have observed and are familiar with their English competency in a practice setting.

All other applicants are required to demonstrate English language competence. Applicants who are required to demonstrate English competence must complete recognised English language testing. The SWRB recognises the *International English Language Testing (IELTS)*.

Applicants are required to:

- (a). sit the academic band; and
- (b). score at least 7 in each band of the four individual components of listening; reading, writing and speaking.

IELTS results remain valid for 2 years.

The test results must be sent directly to the SWRB.