



**Social Workers  
Registration Board**  

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**Kāhui Whakamana Tauwhiro**

**ENTITLEMENT TO REGISTRATION**

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**ENOUGH PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE**

**POLICY STATEMENT**

Approved: August 2009  
For review: August 2011

### 1. Introduction and Obligations of the Board

The Social Workers Registration Act (2003) requires the Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB) to establish clear criteria for the registration of social workers.

- Section 6 entitles a person who has a recognised NZ qualification to be registered subject to meeting competence requirements; being a fit and proper person; being competent to practice social work with Maori and different ethnic and cultural groups, and that “he or she has enough practical experience in practising social work.” s6(d).
- Section 7 (e), in referring to registration of a person with an overseas qualification, also requires that he or she has enough practical experience in practising social work.
- Section 13 (b)( i) empowers the SWRB to fully register an applicant with neither a recognised NZ qualification nor an overseas qualification equivalent to a recognised NZ qualification where the Board is satisfied that his or her practical experience in practising social work in New Zealand is enough to compensate for the lack of such a qualification.

### 2. Enough Practical Experience as Social Workers

The Act enables the SWRB to develop a framework to determine what is enough experience.

The Board considers that:

- enough practical experience for a Social Worker who has graduated with a recognised NZ social work qualification, or equivalent, will be 2000 hours supervised practice, post-qualification;
- for applicants who are eligible for registration under Section 13, enough practical experience is addressed in the Policy Entitlement to Registration . Criteria for Section 13 Registration.

### 3. Rationale

- Supervised practice experience is considered paramount for competence to practice.
- A period of supervised practice following qualification complements the knowledge, skills and practical experience gained during the programme of study.
- The required number of hours fits within a range when benchmarked with other professions.