



**Social Workers  
Registration Board**  
Kāhui Whakamana Tauwhiro

## **ENTITLEMENT TO REGISTRATION**

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## **CRITERIA FOR SECTION 12 REGISTRATION**

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

Approved: May 2010  
For review: August 2011

## CRITERIA FOR SECTION 12 REGISTRATION

### 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.

Section 12 states that the Board must decide that the applicant should be registered fully, if and only if, he or she meets the criteria in section 6 or section 7.

Section 6 specifies the criteria for Entitlement to registration of New Zealand qualified social workers.

#### **These criteria are:**

A person who has a recognised New Zealand qualification is entitled to be registered if the Board is satisfied:

- (a) that his or her competence to practise social work has been found satisfactory under Part 3 of the Act; and
- (b) that he or she is a fit and proper person to practise social work; and
- (c) that (whether because of the inclusion of an appropriate component in that qualification, or as a result of his or her satisfactory completion of a separate course or courses of training) he or she:
  - i. is competent to practise social work with M ori; and
  - ii. is competent to practise social work with different ethnic and cultural groups in New Zealand; and
- (d) that he or she has enough practical experience in practising social work.

Section 7 specifies criteria for Entitlement to registration of overseas-qualified social workers.

These are:

A person who does not have a recognised New Zealand qualification is entitled 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 Māori; 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 Māori; and
  - ii. is competent to practise social work with different ethnic and cultural groups in New Zealand; and
- (d) he or 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 of the Act; 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.

### **Board requirements**

The following Board policies address the criteria for Section 12 (full) registration outlined in Section 6.

- Entitlement to Registration - Competence
- Entitlement to Registration . Fit and Proper Person
- Entitlement to Registration - Competence to practise social work with Māori
- Entitlement to Registration - Competence to practise social work with different ethnic and cultural groups in New Zealand
- Entitlement to Registration . Enough Practical Experience.

Additionally, the Board's policies:

- Entitlement to Registration . Criteria for Section 7 Registration
- Entitlement to Registration - English Language Competence and English Language Testing

provide the additional criteria for full registration for overseas qualified social workers; and the Board's policy:

- Entitlement to Registration . Criteria for Section 13 Registration

provides the additional criteria for applicants with enough practical experience to compensate for a lack of a recognised qualification.