

Fees

The **registration application fee** is \$345 plus an initial competence assessment fee of \$255.55 – unless you've completed your Competence Certificate through the Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers (ANZASW) or have completed a New Zealand-recognised qualification in the last two years.

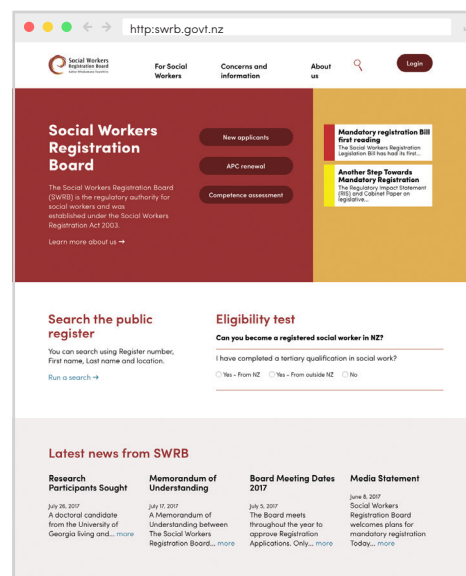
An **Annual Practising Certificate** costs \$368.

If you studied and received your qualification overseas there is also a one-off \$300 fee for the 'non-binding' qualification assessment required (except if your qualification was completed in Australia and was approved by the Australian Association of Social Workers).

Need help with registering?

If you have any questions about registering as a social worker, please check out our website **www.swrb.govt.nz** in the first instance.

But if you still need help, please don't hesitate to contact us at **applications@swrb.govt.nz** or on **0508 797 269**.



Please note: This brochure reflects the requirements of the current legislation. Some aspects will change when the Social Workers Registration Legislation Bill currently before Parliament is passed.

Registering as a social worker in New Zealand



**Kia Ora, Talofa, Malo e lelei,
Bula vinaka, Fakalofa lahi atu,
Kia Orana, Namaste, Ni hao,
Greetings and welcome**

Registering as a social worker in New Zealand is currently voluntary. But once it is passed, the Social Workers Registration Legislation Bill introduced into Parliament in August 2017 will make registration mandatory.

That will mean anyone who has the title of Social Worker will need to be registered in order to practise.

It will also provide assurance to the public that anyone calling themselves a social worker:

- has met certain standards of skill, knowledge and experience
- is required to have professional supervision
- must do ongoing professional development, and
- is subject to complaint and disciplinary processes.

The Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB) was set up to administer the registration system under the current Social Workers Registration Act 2003.

The SWRB's purpose is to ensure registered social workers are competent to practise and held accountable for the way in which they practise.

You can read all the SWRB policies, test your eligibility to register, and apply online at **www.swrb.govt.nz**

How to register

To apply for registration as a social worker you must:

- have completed or be enrolled in a recognised New Zealand social work qualification, or
- have completed an overseas equivalent social work qualification, or
- have enough practical experience to compensate for the lack of a New Zealand recognised qualification (under section 13 of the Social Worker Registration Act 2003)
- be competent to practise social work
- be 'fit and proper' to practise social work in New Zealand and,
- for full registration, have enough practical experience in New Zealand.

The application form has a set of guide notes which are important to read before and while you are completing the form. You will need to include various documents with your application and most of these will need to be certified.

You will also need to undergo a full Police check.

Processing your application for registration will take around six to eight weeks and once registered, you must also hold an Annual Practising Certificate (APC). Initially, you won't need to apply for this – you'll automatically receive an APC free-of-charge for the remainder of the practising year in which you apply for registration.

Maintaining your registration

Once you are registered, you are required to:

- meet the requirements to hold an Annual Practising Certificate
- adhere to the SWRB Code of Conduct
- complete at least 20 hours Continuing Professional Development (CPD) a year
- access appropriate supervision regularly
- complete a Competence Assessment every five years.

