



**Social Workers
Registration Board**

Kāhui Whakamana Tauwhiro

**CRITERIA FOR SECTION 10 REGISTRATION
PROVISIONAL**

POLICY STATEMENT

Approved: November 2009
Last reviewed: December
2018
For review: February 2019

This policy statement is based on the Social Workers Registration Act 2003 (the Act)

1. Introduction

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

Section 10 of the Act states that provisional registration is available as follows:

- (1) A person registered provisionally:
 - (a) must always be registered subject to conditions appropriate to his or her circumstances; and
 - (b) may also be registered subject to restrictions.
- (2) The duration of any period of provisional registration of a person to whom Section 14(2) applies (or of any period for which the provisional registration of such a person is renewed) must be such that, when it is added to the duration of any previous period or periods of provisional registration of the person, the total is no more than 8 years.
- (3) The duration of any period of provisional registration of a person to whom Section 14(2) does not apply (or of any period for which the provisional registration of such a person is renewed):
 - (a) must be no more than 2 years; and
 - (b) must be such that, when it is added to the duration of any previous period or periods of limited registration of the person, the total is no more than 8 years.

Section 14 states the following criteria for provisional registration:

- (1) The Board must decide that the applicant should be registered provisionally if, and only if, satisfied—
 - (a) that the applicant's competence to practise social work has been found satisfactory under Part 3 and
 - (b) that he or she is a fit and proper person to practise social work, meets some of the other criteria in Section 6 or Section 7,
 - (c) that he or she is in the process of working towards meeting the rest of them.

2. SWRB interpretation of the Criteria for Provisional Registration

Section 14 (1) (a) and (b) of the Act outline the criteria an applicant must meet in order to be eligible for provisional registration. This Section requires:

- (a) that the applicant's competence to practise social work has been found satisfactory under Part 3; and
- (b) that he or she is a fit and proper person to practise social work, meets some of the other criteria in Section 6 or Section 7, and -
 - (i) is in the process of working towards meeting the rest of them

The Board has determined that for applicants with a New Zealand recognised social work qualification, to be eligible for provisional registration they must demonstrate, they meet the competence (Section 6 (a) and (c) and fit and proper (Section 6(b)) criteria.

The Board has determined that for applicants with a substantially equivalent overseas qualification, to be eligible for provisional registration, they must demonstrate that

Section 7 (b)(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

(d) he or she can speak and write English reasonably effectively, and understand spoken and written English reasonably well; and

(e) 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.

Further Section 14 (1) (b) (i) requires that in addition to meeting the criteria outlined above that an applicant must demonstrate that they are in the process of meeting the rest of the criteria in Section 6 for applicants with a New Zealand qualification or Section 7 for applicants with an overseas qualification.

That is, for applicants with a New Zealand recognised qualification, section 6 (d) That he or she has enough practical experience in practising social work;

and

For applicants with an overseas qualification, Section 7 (c) That 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
- (e) he or she has enough practical experience in practising social work.