



**Social Workers  
Registration Board**  
Kāhui Whakamana Tauwhiro

## **CRITERIA FOR SECTION 12 REGISTRATION** **FULL**

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Approved:	May 2010
Last Reviewed:	April 2015
For Review:	May 2018

## CRITERIA FOR SECTION 12 REGISTRATION

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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 12 of the Act 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 Māori; 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.***

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*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's policies address the criteria for Section 12 (full) registration outlined in Section 6 of the Act.

- Competence
- Fit and Proper Person
- Enough Practical Experience.

The following Board's policies provide the additional criteria for full registration for overseas qualified social workers.

- Criteria for Section 7 Registration
- English Language Competence and English Language Testing

The Board's policy Criteria for Section 13 Registration provides the additional criteria for applicants, with enough practical experience to compensate for a lack of a recognised qualification