

## Frequently Asked Questions re the Education Standards & Field Education

### **Pātai 1:**

If a third year ākonga from 2025 met the requirements for field education placement *days* last year (2025) but not the *hours*, do they need to make up those hours under the new Education Standards in 2026?

### **Response:**

No. As the ākonga met all of the tertiary education organisation's requirements for 2025 under the previous SWRB Programme Recognition Standards, the ākonga affected will only be required to complete the required placement hours in 2026 under the new Standards.

### **Pātai 2:**

Can Noho Marae be classed as field placement hours?

### **Response:**

No, as the TEO's Noho Marae is not part of field placement hours. Any Noho Marae led by the TEO is part of teaching hours, not placement hours. If the placement organisation wishes an ākonga to attend a Noho Marae as part of placement, the number of placement learning hours will be agreed on by the TEO's Field Education Coordinator.

### **Pātai 3:**

3.3.5(b) states that for Field Education placement, selection of providers must ensure that each placement has 'a field educator of no less than three years of social work registration since qualifying and with a current Practising Certificate, who will provide professional supervision as necessary'. Does this mean that all placements must have a registered social worker guiding them?

### **Response:**

Yes, there must be a registered social worker (RSW) supervising and guiding ākonga on placement. This RSW may be on site, off site, or may be external to the placement organisation, but must be available to guide and provide advice, as well as provide one hour per week of supervision. It is not an expectation of the Education Standards that the RSW is necessarily on site. All Standards under 3.3 are intended to recognise the challenges of placement and allow for flexibility and alternative approaches.

### **Pātai 4:**

Can pre-placement workshops/Wānanga be included in the 900 hours?

### **Response:**

No. Education Standard 3.2 notes that the purpose of placement is that ākonga have 900 hours of field education in the field.

### **Pātai 5:**

While on placement, can up to three (3) days of sick leave/tangihanga leave be included in the 900 hours?

### **Response:**

Yes. Education Standard 3.3.5 notes that the HR policies of the placement and the policies of the TEO are in effect during the placement, so up to three (3) days of Sick Leave can be included in the 900 hours of field education.

### **Pātai 6:**

Can public holidays be included in the field education placement?

### **Response:**

Yes. Ākonga are entitled to all public holidays. However, these are not included as placement learning hours. If ākonga are engaged in placement work on a public holiday, the hours worked would be included as placement hours in consultation with the Field Education Coordinator. If the day is not worked, then additional learning hours will be required to meet the placement requirements.

**Pātai 7:**

What can be included in a Noho Marae?

**Response:**

Standard 1.4.1 (f) states an explicit expectation that a noho marae will be included in the programme and therefore must be supported by the TEO. 'The programme includes a marae wānanga or a noho marae (overnight stay).' A Noho Marae or marae wananga (which may or may not involve staying overnight) is a deliberate, immersive educational practice used to develop Tiriti-based, tikanga-aware, and relationally competent practitioners. Competence to practise social work with Māori is central to the practice of social work in Aotearoa and the understanding of the Marae and associated kawa and tikanga is a cornerstone of competence. However, it is up to the TEO to determine what will be included and how this immersive educational practice is undertaken. Therefore, each tertiary organisation will decide which parts of their programme are best suited for inclusion as part of Noho Marae delivery and this will be reflected in the programme learning outcomes and curriculum documentation.

**Pātai 8:**

Is there a process in place for how the SWRB would like to be informed when ākonga are doing two in-work placements? Is there a form or an outline of what information is required? What email address should this notification be sent to?

**Response:**

3.3.3. notes that where an ākonga may need to complete two placements at their place of work, this will be notified to the SWRB Registrar by the TEO. This is best sent to the [education@swrb.govt.nz](mailto:education@swrb.govt.nz) address with a clear rationale of why and how the two placements meet the criteria set out in 3.3.3. A form will be developed for this purpose.

**Patai 9:**

Can we have clarity on the application of PRS 3.3.7 c)?

*c. guidance to ākonga and field education providers on how to manage ākonga HR-related issues, especially leave, during the field education placement which:*

- *supports ākonga to manage attendance at funerals or tangihanga, or other unplanned leave such as sick leave*
- *ensures ākonga are able **to undertake replacement hours** to complete field education requirements.*

It was indicated that ākonga would need to complete any hours that were missed due to illness and/or tangihanga. However, some education institutions now have some written clarification from the SWRB that ākonga can take up to three days of leave without needing to make up these days, thereby including them as placement days.

**Response:**

Yes, as in Pātai 5, ākonga can take up to 3 days for SL or other unplanned leave across the total years of the qualification. The need to make up hours or days is where leave exceeds 3 days based on an 8 hour day. Exceptional circumstances may be considered by the Registrar.

**Further queries**

Any queries on Field Education or other aspects of the Education Standards can be directed to the [education@swrb.govt.nz](mailto:education@swrb.govt.nz) email address.

**Updated 7 May 2026**