



NEW ZEALAND
CHIROPRACTIC BOARD
TE POARI KAIKOROHITI O AOTEAROA

Policy for Chiropractor registration
in Aotearoa New Zealand for:

New Zealand Graduates
TTMR Act 1997 Applicants
Overseas-qualified applicants

February 2025

ASSOCIATED CHIROPRACTIC BOARD POLICY DOCUMENTS

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following associated policy documents

- Competency-based professional standards for chiropractors
- Code of ethics
- Scope of practice: Chiropractor
- Criminal history
- English language requirements
- Newly registered overseas-trained practitioners: Recertification Programme

REVISION SCHEDULE

Version	Name	Date approved	Notes
1	Registration Policy	10/2/2025	Combined existing registration policies for NZ graduates, TTMR & overseas applicants

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Policy for registration in New Zealand

The role of Te Poari Kaikorohiti o Aotearoa | the Chiropractic Board (the Board) is to protect public safety and to oversee professional and ethical standards in the Chiropractic profession. The Board ensures chiropractors meet and maintain professional standards of education, conduct and performance, ensuring chiropractors deliver high quality healthcare to the public. The Board will hold chiropractors to account if their conduct falls short of these standards.

1. Purpose

To practise in Aotearoa New Zealand, as a chiropractor, it is a legal requirement to be registered by the Board, and to hold a current practising certificate. This document outlines the registration requirements of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act) and sets out the Board's policy requirements to gain registration in Aotearoa New Zealand.

2. Legislative context

Section 15 of the HPCA Act – registration requirements.

Under section 15 of the HPCA Act the Board may register applicants as a chiropractor if they:

1. are competent to practise within that scope of practice; and
2. have the qualifications that are prescribed, under section 12, for that scope of practice; and
3. are fit for registration in accordance with section 16.

3. Use of Chiropractor title

In accordance with section 7 of the HPCA Act, without registration a person may not use any of the names, titles, and/or abbreviations used for the chiropractor scope of practice or do anything to suggest that they are qualified to be registered or able to practise as a chiropractor.

4. Accepted qualifications

Pursuant to Section 12 of the Act, registration as a chiropractor in New Zealand requires either:

- a Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia (CCEA) accredited Chiropractic qualification from the New Zealand College of Chiropractic, Auckland; or
- a pass in an examination set by the New Zealand Chiropractic Board for chiropractors trained overseas who have graduated from an institution with accreditation status as recognised by a member body of the Council on Chiropractic Education International (CCEI); or
- under the provision of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997, registration by the Chiropractic Board of Australia at the time of application.

5. Registration Policy

The Board's policy with respect to competence, qualification and fitness requirements for registration are set out below. To be registered all applicants, must meet the Board's standards of clinical, cultural, and ethical competence for registration.

Recent NZ graduates are deemed to be competent for registration.

Fitness for registration

English language requirements

The Board is required by the HPCA Act to ensure applicants can communicate and comprehend effectively in English to work as a chiropractor in New Zealand (Section 16 (a & b)). Applicants must satisfy the Board they are able to communicate effectively, and that their ability to communicate in, and comprehend English is sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public.

1. Applicants for registration are considered to have met the English language requirement if any of 1 a or b have been met:
 - a. The applicant graduated from a Board accredited programme; **or**
 - b. The applicant completed their chiropractic training:
 - i. in Australia, the Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom, USA; **or**
 - ii. at a Canadian institution where all tuition was undertaken in English; **or**
 - iii. another jurisdiction where English is the sole language of instruction and assessment.
2. Where an applicant undertakes an approved English language test:
 - a. the pass is valid for two years; and
 - b. must be obtained in one sitting; and
 - c. must meet the following criteria:
 - i. sit the academic band; **and**
 - ii. gain an average score of 7 or more; **and**
 - iii. score at least 7 in each band of the four individual components of listening, reading, writing, and speaking.

Assessment of criminal convictions

Section 16(c) of the HPCA Act states that no applicant for registration may be registered if they have been convicted in NZ or elsewhere of any offence punishable by imprisonment for a term of 3 months or longer, and they do not satisfy the responsible authority that, having regard to all the circumstances, including the time that has elapsed since the conviction, the offence does not reflect adversely on their fitness to practise as a health practitioner of that profession.

The Board will consider each case on its merits to determine whether individuals are fit to practise in NZ.

Physical and mental health

For registration purposes the Board must be satisfied that applicants are able to perform the functions required for the practice of chiropractic, and that they are not prevented from doing so because of some mental or physical condition.

Good standing

In determining applicants' fitness for registration, the Board is required to take into consideration:

- a. professional disciplinary proceedings, (whether in NZ or in another country); and
- b. investigations in respect of any matter that may be the subject of professional disciplinary proceedings, (whether in NZ or in another country); and
- c. orders of professional disciplinary tribunals, (whether in NZ or in another country); and
- d. any issue which may give the Board reason to believe that an applicant may endanger the health or safety of members of the public.

Registration fee

All registration applications must include a payment of the relevant fee for them to proceed through to being processed for consideration. Fees are set out in the Board's current Gazette Notice.

6. After registration

All New Zealand qualified applicants who have met the requirements for registration and are granted registration as a chiropractor, will be entered onto the Register of chiropractors as able to practise within the Chiropractor Scope of Practice.

7. Applicants who do not obtain registration

Failure to complete the registration process

- Applicants unable to submit all required application documentation within six (6) months of initial application will have to reapply to the Board and pay a new application fee.
- Where the application is incomplete due to Board process or information required from a third party, then the timeframe will not apply.

Failure to meet individual criteria

- Applicants who do not satisfy the Board that they are able to meet any of the registration requirements, will be declined registration.
- Applicants who still wish to obtain registration, may seek clarification from the Board on what steps would be required to meet the required standards.

Right of appeal

- Where the Board proposes to decline an application, section 24 of the HPCA Act requires that the applicant will be advised in writing of the reasons for the decision, given a copy of any information on which the Board relies and will be given a reasonable opportunity to make written and oral submissions either personally or by representative to be heard in respect of the matter. The Board's subsequent decision will be final.
- Under section 106 of the HPCA Act, an unsuccessful applicant may appeal the Board's subsequent decision to decline to register them by lodging a notice of appeal with the District Court. This notice of appeal must be lodged within 20 [twenty] business days after the notice of the Board decision was communicated to the applicant.

Recently registered practitioners applying for a practising certificate who have not commenced practice within 12 months of registration will need to refer to the Issuing Practising Certificates (Including Return to Practice) Policy.

Registration requirements for individuals who graduated from a NZ institution more than 12 months prior to applying for first time registration will need to refer to the Issuing Practising Certificates (Including Return to Practice) Policy.

8. Overseas-Trained practitioners

The Board has identified that chiropractors who have completed their primary training in a jurisdiction other than New Zealand do not receive education in aspects of healthcare unique to New Zealand.

The Board has therefore set a recertification programme under section 41(3)(f) of the Act, requiring all chiropractors whose primary qualification was not obtained in New Zealand, and who register or re-register as a chiropractor after the date of the programme's introduction, to complete education on practising in the New Zealand context.

All chiropractors to whom this recertification programme applies must successfully complete the following training courses relevant to the practice of chiropractic in New Zealand:

- i. Mauriora: Foundation course in cultural competence
- ii. Tāhū Hauora: Learning and education modules on understanding bias in health care

The Board's Newly Registered Overseas-trained Practitioners: Recertification Programme policy can be found on the Board's website.

9. Registration under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997

The Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997 [TTMRA] provides for mutual recognition of occupational registration between Australia and New Zealand. Whilst there may be some differences between chiropractic education and practice in the two countries, the Board accepts that the professions are substantially the same. The provisions of the TTMRA apply and chiropractors registered in Australia are entitled to registration as chiropractors in New Zealand.

The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance [HPCA] Act 2003 is subject to the TTMRA for the purposes of registration but once registered, the chiropractor practises in the context of the HPCA Act.

Registration under the TTMRA is a streamlined and quick option for Australian registered practitioners.

Applicants are deemed to be registered and able to practise as a chiropractor in New Zealand at the point their notice of application, all required documentation and fee are received by the Board. This period of deemed registration ends when registration is approved or declined or postponed by the Board.

TTMRA applicants are not required to have a particular qualification nor are they required to reside or be domiciled in the Australian state in which they are registered. Applicants are not required to be Australian residents or to have completed their chiropractic education in Australia.

Individuals applying for registration under the TTMRA Act 1997:

- I. are required to be registered and hold a current practising certificate to practise as a chiropractor in Australia; and

- II. are required to pay a registration application fee and apply and pay for a New Zealand practising certificate; and
- III. will be granted deemed registration from the date their complete application is accepted by the Board, and may practise the equivalent occupation pending a decision regarding registration; and
- IV. will be entitled to a decision from the Board about registration within one month of being granted deemed registration.
- V. The Board will only register persons who meet the qualifications, clinical experience, and fitness for registration requirements as stated in the Act and this policy.