



# Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand

Kaihaumanu Tūroro o Aotearoa

## **VALIDITY OF COMPETENCE ASSESSMENTS AND ATTESTATIONS POLICY**

Refer - Part 2 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003

## **PERIOD OF VALIDITY OF COMPETENCE ASSESSMENTS AND ATTESTATIONS**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Policy for Overseas Qualified Applicants for Registration
- Registration Policy for Recent New Zealand Graduates
- Registration Policy for New Zealand Graduates Applying for Registration More Than 12 Months Following Graduation
- Return to Practice Policy

### **Purpose**

Section 27 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act), stipulates that the Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand (OTBNZ), must not issue an annual practising certificate unless it is satisfied that the applicant meets the required standard of competence. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the OTBNZ meets the legal requirements of section 27 of the HPCA Act, in relation to practitioners whose competence to practise has previously been accepted on the basis of either:

- A competence assessment application; *or*
- Completion of both the online Mauriora *Foundation Course on Cultural Competency* (at [www.mauriora.co.nz/](http://www.mauriora.co.nz/)), and a competence assessment application; *or*
- An attestation of competence from an occupational therapist colleague.

### **Background**

The OTBNZ requires all registered occupational therapists who are practising in New Zealand, to participate in the Continuing Competence Framework for Recertification (CCFR). The OTBNZ accepts the competence of practitioners applying for recertification on the basis of a satisfactory sign-off from a third party.

This policy relates to individuals who fall into one of the following groups and who are not yet participating in the CCFR:

- Overseas qualified applicants for registration;
- New Zealand graduates applying for a practising certificate who have not commenced practice within 12 months of registration;
- New Zealand graduates who have not applied for registration within 12 months of graduating;
- Registered and previously registered practitioners returning to practice in New Zealand.

The OTBNZ requires these individuals to demonstrate competence to practise by completing the online *Mauriora Foundation Course on Cultural Competency* and submitting a competence assessment application or, in the case of some individuals, an attestation of competence from an occupational therapist colleague.

## **Policy**

Where practitioners have not yet commenced practice in New Zealand and participated in the CCFR, the OTBNZ decision to accept competence to practise will be as follows:

**1. Competence has been accepted on basis of competence assessment application**

If more than three years elapse from the date of the OTBNZ's decision to accept competence to practise, registrants are required to complete the online *Mauriora Foundation Course on Cultural Competency* and submit a competence assessment application.

**2. Competence has been accepted on basis of completion of the online *Mauriora Foundation Course on Cultural Competency* and competence assessment application**

If more than three years elapse from the date of the OTBNZ's decision to accept competence to practise, registrants are required to complete the online *Mauriora Foundation Course on Cultural Competency* and submit a competence assessment application.

**3. Competence accepted on basis of attestation from an occupational therapist**

If more than 12 months elapse from the date of the OTBNZ's decision to accept competence to practise, registrants are either required to submit a fresh attestation, or to complete the online *Mauriora Foundation Course on Cultural Competency* and submit a competence assessment application.

**Date approved**

**14 August 2012**

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