



MUTUAL RECOGNITION VOLUNTARY RELATIONSHIP CHARTER

(Effective from 1 October 2007, revised January 2008)

Information for Dietitians Credentialed by the Dietitians Association of Australia Or Registered by the Dietitians Board in New Zealand, who wish to have their Credentialing/Registration in the One Country, Recognised in the Other

The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) and the New Zealand Dietitians Board (NZDB) have entered into a Mutual Recognition Voluntary Relationship Charter to mutually recognise dietitians who are credentialed or registered in Australia and New Zealand. The Mutual Recognition Voluntary Relationship Charter (the Charter) will only apply to dietitians with full Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) status (Australia), or NZ registered dietitians who hold a current Annual Practising Certificate (APC), who have practised for more than one year without conditions on their scope of practice (New Zealand).

It should be noted that the Charter is neither legally binding nor enforceable in a court of law.

The DAA and the NZDB have agreed that the standards of DAA credentialing and NZDB registration are sufficiently equivalent to enable a mutual recognition of dietitians to be achieved.

These standards cover:

- The Dietetic Practice Domains or Areas of Practice: clinical, public health dietetics, food service.
- The competencies required for entry into the profession.
- The maintenance of continuing professional competency.
- The dietetic qualifications, accreditation of educational institutions, and examinations.

The DAA and NZDB also agree that differences exist in their cultural competency requirements, and that these differences can be addressed by the completion of specialised self-study for applicants for mutual recognition.

The mutual recognition respects that the Charter, as it relates to the NZDB, must be consistent with the requirements of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA).

Mutual Recognition Voluntary Relationship Charter Conditions:

The Mutual Recognition Voluntary Relationship Charter applies to Australian dietitians with full APD status, that is those who have practised for at least one year and completed their provisional APD programme and to New Zealand registered dietitians who hold an annual practising certificate (APC) and who have practised for more than one year without conditions on their scope of practice.

Such dietitians credentialed by the DAA are acceptable to the NZDB for registration and certification for practice within New Zealand, and dietitians registered and certificated by the NZDB are acceptable to the DAA for credentialing for practice within Australia.

Which Dietitians Can Apply For Mutual Recognition

The mutual recognition arrangement between the DAA and the NZDB applies to dietitians in:

- Australia, who have full APD status with the DAA, that is having practised for at least one year and have completed their Provisional APD programme; and
- New Zealand, who are registered with the NZDB, who hold an annual practising certificate (APC), and who have practised for more than one year without conditions on their scope of practice.

Other credentialed/registered dietitians, typically those in their first year of practice after graduating or after a prolonged absence from dietetic practice, are not covered by this mutual recognition arrangement. No dietitian with any restriction or limitation regarding their practice in their country of registration/credentialing will be eligible to apply for Mutual Recognition. The DAA and the NZDB may include such dietitians at a later stage, when the two organisations have gained experience with the arrangement.

Confirmation by the DAA or NZDB to the other that an applicant has good standing with their credentialing/registration and practising status, will suffice to identify that the dietitian complies with the requirements of the authority with which she or he is registered/credentialed, along with the information provided on the Mutual Recognition Voluntary Relationship Charter credentialing/registration application form.

Procedure For Making Application For Mutual Recognition

Australian Dietitians Seeking Registration in New Zealand:

- Step 1: Dietitian submits registration application form, including the details specified above, and signing a statement "I have read and will abide by the 'Code of Ethics', including familiarising myself with New Zealand's legislative requirements, as specified in the New Zealand Dietitians Board 'Code of Ethics'".
- Step 2: Dietitian reads information on the 'Best Health Outcomes for Maori: Practice Implications', and shows he/she has passed the on-line test based on this reading.
- Step 3: NZDB checks with DAA on the status of credentialing and good standing of the applicant.
- Step 4: Once all steps are completed, the Dietitian agrees to undertake ongoing Continuing Competency Programme requirements, is granted NZDB registration and upon application and payment, is issued with an Annual Practising Certificate.

New Zealand Dietitian Seeking APD Status in Australia:

- Step 1: Dietitian submits application for credentialing, including details specified above, and signs a statement on the credentialing application form "I undertake to practise in accordance with the DAA *Code of Professional Conduct* and observe the DAA *Statement of Ethical Practice*".
- Step 2: DAA checks with NZDB on the status of registration and good standing of the applicant.
- Step 3: Dietitian completes pre-reading in Indigenous Health.
- Step 4: Dietitian is recognised, agrees to undertake ongoing APD programme requirements and is granted full APD status.

Application and payment forms

For Australian dietitians seeking registration in New Zealand - download, complete and post the application form at this link. For New Zealand dietitians seeking accreditation in Australia – download, complete and post the application form on the DAA website.

CONTACTS

NZ Dietitians Board:

or email the Registrar:

Dietitians Association Australia:

or email DSR Coordinator:

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