

What you should know if you employ an Australian Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD)

The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act) requires that: All Dietitians must be registered with the Dietitians Board, and hold a current New Zealand practising certificate, to legally practise dietetics in New Zealand.

Registration of an Australian Full APD (Accredited Practising Dietitian) is usually a three step process:

- 1. Application process**
- 2. Entry of name on register (Registration)**
- 3. Granting of an annual practising certificate (APC)**

The Dietitians Board (NZDB) and the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) have signed a 'Mutual Recognition Voluntary Relationship Charter'. This charter only applies to Australian dietitians with full Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) status: that is, those who have practised for at least one year and completed their provisional APD programme.

Other Australian Trained Dietitians who are not full APDs will be treated as Overseas Trained Dietitians.

The application process for **full Australian APDs** to gain registration and a practising certificate in NZ is:-

- Dietitian submits registration application form, including payment, documentation and the details specified, and signs 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'".
- Dietitian reads information on the '*Best Health Outcomes for Maori: Practice Implications*', (on the Board's website) and shows he/she has passed the on-line test based on this reading.
- The Registrar checks with the DAA on the status of credentialing and good standing of the applicant.
- Once all steps are completed, the dietitian agrees to undertake ongoing Continuing Competency Programme requirements and his/her name is entered on the register.

The Registration package includes:

- Annual Practising Certificate (APC) application form and fees payment form
- The 'Statement of Registration Competency Requirements'
- The Continuing Competency Manual and CCP Audit template
- Code of Ethics' booklet
- Newsletters and the Board Functions leaflet
- Supervision guidelines and agreement

Upon application and payment, he/she is issued with an Annual Practising Certificate.

Dietitians registered under the 'Mutual Recognition Voluntary Relationship Charter' are strongly encouraged to be supervised in their first year of practice in New Zealand. The dietitian must actively engage in the Continuing Competency Programme (CCP), using an experienced dietitian as his/her mentor.