



DIETITIANS BOARD

Te Mana Mātanga Mātai Kai

English Language requirements: candidates for Registration

Policy Statement

This document sets out Board policy concerning the English Language proficiency requirements for applicants for registration with the Board.

Purpose

Under section 15 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act) the Board may register an applicant within the scope of practice 'General Scope of Practice: Dietitian if the applicant:

- is fit for registration in accordance with section 16; and
- has the qualifications that are prescribed, under section 12, for that scope of practice; and
- is competent to practise within that scope of practice.

There are eight criteria relating to fitness for registration set out under section 16 of the HPCA Act — satisfying the Board of English language competence is one of those criteria.

Accordingly, if English is not an applicant's first language¹, the Board requires an applicant to demonstrate proficiency in English before registration can proceed.

How to demonstrate proficiency

If English is not a candidate's first language, then he/she must provide evidence of fitness for registration by demonstrating the following level of achievement in one of the two tests accepted by the Board for these purposes before registration can proceed.

- **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)** at the Academic level with an overall score of 7.5 and a minimum of 7 in each band.
- **Occupational English Test (OET)** with A or B in all four sections.

Test results must be dated within the 12 months preceding the Board's receipt of the application form.

Further information

All registered practitioners should be familiar with the provisions of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

Detailed information including locations, contact details and dates for IELTS examinations in New Zealand and overseas is available at www.ielts.org

Detailed information including locations, contact details and dates for OET examinations is available at <http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/>

¹ 'First Language' (native language/mother tongue) is defined as the language a person learns first, usually from their family.