



NEW ZEALAND  
**CHIROPRACTIC BOARD**  
TE POARI KAIKOROHITI O AOTEAROA

# POLICY AND GUIDELINES:

ENGLISH LANGUAGE POLICY FOR REGISTRATION

Date

## Associated Policy Documents

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## Revision Schedule

Version	Date Approved	Next Review
One	2005	
Two	25 February 2021	

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# English language policy for registration

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure chiropractors can comprehend and communicate effectively, by setting out English language requirements for practising in New Zealand.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to all applicants applying to register with the Board where English is not their first language. This includes applicants who have received their training in Aotearoa New Zealand, and those who received their training elsewhere. For the purposes of this policy the Board defines 'first language' as the language that the applicant learnt to speak first, also known as their mother tongue.

## LEGAL CONTEXT

The Board is charged with the responsibility under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance (HPCA) Act 2003 to protect the health and safety of members of the public by ensuring chiropractors are competent and fit to practise. This responsibility includes the ability to communicate effectively as outlined in Section 16 of the HPCA Act which states that no applicant for registration may be registered if:

- a) they do not satisfy the Board that they are able to communicate effectively; or
- b) they do not satisfy Board that their ability to communicate in and comprehend English is sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public.

## POLICY STATEMENT

The Chiropractic Board (the Board) is required by the HPCA Act to ensure that applicants are able to communicate and comprehend effectively in English in order to work as a chiropractor in Aotearoa New Zealand (Section 16 (a & b))

## REQUIREMENTS

1. 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.
2. Applicants for registration are considered to have met the English language requirement if any of 2a 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 jurisdictions where English is the sole language of instruction and assessment.
3. 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.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

The Board retains the discretionary power to require any applicant to provide proof of English language competence at any time.

The Board will not approve registration where there is doubt about an individual's ability to communicate clearly in English. Applicants in this situation will be managed on a case by case basis.

The Board reserves the right to make further enquiries by:

- a. Seeking additional information from sources such as placement educators/supervisors; OR
- b. Requiring the applicant to attend an interview with a Board nominated assessor, either remotely (eg, zoom) or in person (travel would be at the applicant's expense); OR
- c. Requiring the applicant to pass an IELTS examination, regardless of their time registered.