



TIMEFRAMES AND PROCEDURES FOR GRANDPARENTING APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION IN THE NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Time period for applications: February 2018 thru March 2019 (14 months).

This will cover two APC renewal rounds, and will allow for a robust communication campaign about the (time-limited) opportunity. Tailored vocational scope application forms will be available on the Board's website from mid-February 2018 until 31 March 2019.

N.B.: *This is a time-limited pathway to registration in the Neuropsychologist scope, and from 1 April 2019 the grand-parenting route will be closed.*

Consideration and determination of applications:

The Registrar and/or Deputy Registrar will consider and determine applications under his or her current authority/delegations, with reliance on Expert Assessors (as and when required) (see below).

Grand-parenting criteria:

1. The applicant must either already be registered as a Psychologist in New Zealand or be eligible for simultaneous registration in the Psychologist scope.
2. The applicant must have practised safely¹ within the field of neuropsychology, while registered as a psychologist, for a total of at least 4,000 hours over the last six years (combined).²
3. The applicant must have had regular professional supervision appropriate for his or her work in the field of neuropsychology.
4. The applicant must currently be fit for registration in terms of section 16 of the HPCA Act.
5. The applicant must not have any current competence notifications or processes³ underway.

Evidence that may be required:

- Completed application form (including statutory declaration),
- documentation of academic qualifications completed,
- records of formal practical training (e.g., internship) undertaken,
- a Curriculum Vitae and detailed description of relevant professional work,
- evidence of relevant continued competence activity within the past two years,
- reference(s) from appropriate supervisor(s), and
- (for Stage 2 applications only) up to five written case reports.

Where the decision maker is not able to come to a decision based on the above information, a tailored interview (Stage 3) may also be required.

¹ The applicant must not have a history of complaints, competence, or fitness notifications that reflect adversely on their ability to practise safely in the scope of practice.

² The key issue here is supporting evidence that the practitioner has developed and maintained the prescribed core competencies, with neuropsychology representing a significant portion of his or her practice. A reasonably flexible approach will be taken, with the 4,000 hour benchmark as a guide. (4,000 hours roughly equates to 2 years of full-time practice.)

³ Includes Competence Review or Competence Programme.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS:

N.B.: *All applications based purely on academic qualifications will be considered in the first instance (Stage 1) by the Registrar or Deputy Registrar, who may seek advice from other staff members or from any of the appointed Expert Assessors (see below). It is anticipated that the majority of applications will be determined at Stage 1. Stages 2 & 3 only apply to applications made under the grand-parenting pathway, and only where a determination cannot be made at Stage 1.*

Stage 1: Applications will be reviewed (with reference to the prescribed qualifications and core competencies) by the Board's Psychology Advisor, who will provide a summary and recommendation(s) to the Registrar or Deputy Registrar. The advice will include an opinion as to whether or not the application is straight-forward enough to be considered and determined without the need for external expert advice. The (Deputy) Registrar may also seek advice from one of the appointed Expert Assessors. The (Deputy) Registrar will then consider the application and will either communicate a (proposed or final) decision or will inform the applicant that their application needs to be subject to a Stage 2 assessment.

Stage 2 (if required): Applications requiring additional expert assessment will be sent to two of the Board's appointed Expert Assessors⁴ for independent review. The Expert Assessors may request the submission of two reports that the applicant considers to showcase their expertise. The Assessors may ask the applicant to provide further information if required, including up to three additional reports. Each Assessor will provide the (Deputy) Registrar with his or her opinion as to whether the scope should be granted (with or without conditions⁵), and will provide clear reasons for his or her opinion. If the Assessors do not concur, a third Assessor may be consulted. The (Deputy) Registrar will ultimately consider the application and will issue a proposed or final decision (which may include referral for a Stage 3 assessment).

Stage 3 (if required): An interview of the applicant will be conducted by two Expert Assessors. Interviews will focus on the possible gaps/shortcomings identified in the Stage 2 assessment.

Outcomes: Where a decision or proposed decision is to decline an application or to include conditions, clear reasons will be given, including feedback on what competencies were assessed as being absent or underdeveloped.

For further information on the application process please contact:

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⁴ A panel of at least six Expert Assessors will be appointed by the Registrar, based on nominations from the profession as a whole. This should ensure that any potential bias or conflict of interest can be appropriately managed.

⁵ Conditions may, for example, include a requirement for supervised practice or the completion of further (specified) training/education within a set time period.