

English Language Requirements Policy Statement

Section 16(a) and 16(b) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 require the Psychotherapists Board of Aotearoa New Zealand to be satisfied that any person accepted for registration to practise psychotherapy in New Zealand is able to communicate effectively, and is able to comprehend English sufficiently to protect the health and safety of the public and for the purposes of practising within a scope of practice in which they are registered.

Section 16 - No applicant for registration may be registered as a health practitioner of a health profession if -

- a) they do not satisfy the responsible authority that they are able to communicate effectively for the purposes of practising within the scope of practice in respect of which the applicant seeks to be, or agrees to be, registered as; or
- b) they do not satisfy the responsible authority that their ability to communicate in and comprehend English is sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public.

The Board reserves the right to review an applicant's fitness to practise at any time under section 16 of the HPCAA.

Rationale	<p>If English is not the applicant's first or home language; and/or the applicant has not completed an acceptable psychotherapy qualification solely in the English language the Board requires them to demonstrate proficiency in English by completing an <u>academic</u> module International English Language Testing System (IELTS).</p>
Implementation	<p>Applicants are required to pass an IELTS if;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English is not the applicant's first language; or • The applicant has not completed a Board approved psychotherapy qualification solely in the English language <p>Minimum pass marks for the IELTS test are 7 on the IELTS Academic Module (i.e. no less than 7 in each band).</p> <p>Multiple tests will not be accepted and therefore applicants will need to pass IELTS within one result (the same test). IELTS test scores will only be accepted for up to 24 months after the test has been taken.</p> <p>Exemptions to completing the above IELTS requirement</p> <p>Applicants may <u>apply</u> for an exemption to sitting and passing the IELTS. All exemption requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and may require an interview with Board appointed representatives at the applicant's own expense.</p>

	<p>An exemption will be considered when the Board is satisfied that all of the following requirements have been met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The applicant has provided the Board with two references from registered psychotherapists who have observed, and are familiar with, the applicant's English language competency.2. All referees must speak English as a first language, and must provide comment on the applicant's competence in reading, writing, speaking and listening in their clinical work. <p>Referees must complete the English Language Referee Form appended to this policy.</p>
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Date approved: October 2008

Review approved: April 2015

English Language Referee Form following

English Language Referee Form

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Section 16 - No applicant for registration may be registered as a health practitioner of a health profession if -

- a) they do not satisfy the responsible authority that they are able to communicate effectively for the purposes of practising within the scope of practice in respect of which the applicant seeks to be, or agrees to be, registered; or
- b) they do not satisfy the responsible authority that their ability to communicate in and comprehend English is sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public.

An exemption will be considered when the Board is satisfied that all of the following requirements have been met:

1. The applicant has provided the Board with **two** references from registered psychotherapists who have observed, and are familiar with, the applicant's English language competency.
2. All referees must speak English as a first language, and must comment on the applicant's competence in reading, writing, speaking and listening in their clinical work.

Applicant's Name:

You are completing this statement to support the above applicant's application for registration:

Referee Statement

I [Referee name] declare that I have observed and am familiar with, the applicant's English language competency and now comment on the applicant's competence in reading, writing, speaking and listening in their clinical work:

Referee Signature

Date

Referee Contact Details: