

Australian Dietetic Council

Dietetic Skills Recognition (DSR) Reference Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Dietetic Skills Recognition (DSR)

Dietitians Australia (DA) is the organisation gazetted by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection in Australia as responsible for the assessment and recognition of overseas qualified dietitians. DA delegates full authority of all regulatory functions to the Dietitian and Nutritionist Regulatory Council (DNRC) as outlined in the DNRC Terms of Reference. DNRC will undertake this function within guidelines outlined by the Australian Government.

Composition of the DSR Reference Group

Members

- Six APD members, representative of a combined expertise in diverse practice areas.
- Two Dietitians New Zealand Board representative
- One Independent Assessment Expert

DA Staff

- Accreditation Services Officer

Term

Members are appointed by ADC for a three (3) year term with the option to reapply for further terms.

Role

DSR Reference Group are responsible for maintaining the integrity of the DSR examinations by leading the preparation, evaluation and revision of the written MCQ and oral examinations.

DSR Reference Group are responsible for writing and reviewing new questions based on national competency standards for dietitians, to build on the existing MCQ question pool; to ensure ongoing adequacy in question variety for DSR MCQ examinations, and make decisions about assessment of oral examinations, as required.

Members will be required to participate in the following:

For multiple choice question (MCQ) examination meetings, three APD members and one Dietitians New Zealand Board representative will be required to attend the meetings and will be selected on a rotating basis, depending on availability. The Independent Assessment Expert will also be required to participate.

For oral examination meetings, 2-3 APD members will be selected on a rotating basis to determine cut scores, as required.

Functions

MCQ examinations

- To ratify MCQ examination results following each MCQ examination session, twice per year (rotating panel)
- To ensure MCQ examination questions are written and accepted into the question pool at the level of a new graduate
- To write new multiple-choice questions, as required
- Attend meetings to review new questions, as required

Oral Examinations

- Review and assess questions following oral exams, twice per year (rotating panel)
- Provide oversight for new scenario development
- Contribute to analysis of exam results, twice per year (rotating panel)

Selection Criteria

- Must be an Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) (not including NZ representative or independent assessment expert)
- Currency in a role that requires assessment of students against National Competency Standards, either in an academic or medical nutrition therapy environment.
- Recency of practice in an academic environment or various practice areas

Responsibility and Reporting

The DSR Reference Group will be responsible to ADC via the Accreditation Services Officer.