



Mutual Recognition Charter

Mutual Recognition of Credentialing/Registering Dietitians

Dietitians Australia (DA) and the New Zealand Dietitians Board (DB) have established this Charter to mutually recognise dietitians who are registered or credentialed in Australia and New Zealand. The Mutual Recognition Charter (the Charter) will only apply to dietitians with Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) status (Australia), or dietitians registered in the Scope of Practice: Dietitian, who hold a current registration (NZ).

It should be noted that this Charter is neither legally binding nor enforceable in a court of law. However, the New Zealand Dietitians Board has published, in the Gazette, a prescribed qualification for dietitians from Australia that is legally binding under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

Background:

This Charter supersedes the Mutual Recognition Agreement 2008, for mutual recognition of the substantial equivalence of the below-specified status of certification or full membership of DA and the DB.

The DA and the DB have agreed that the standards of DA credentialing and DB registration are sufficiently equivalent to enable a mutual recognition of practising dietitians to be achieved.

The DA and the DB also agree that differences exist in their cultural competency and cultural safety requirements. These differences can be addressed by the completion of required self-study for applicants.

The mutual recognition respects that the Charter, as it relates to the DB, must be consistent with the requirements of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA).

Mutual Recognition Charter Conditions:

The Mutual Recognition Charter applies to:

- Australian dietitians with APD status (those with less than 12 months' work experience in Australia will be required to work under supervision in NZ for 12 months)
- New Zealand registered dietitians

Such dietitians credentialed by DA are acceptable to the DB for registration in New Zealand, and such dietitians registered and certificated by the DB are acceptable to DA for credentialing for practise within Australia.

Australian dietitians seeking registration in New Zealand will need to meet the following:

- Complete any cultural safety related requirements as published on the DB website.
- Submission of a complete application for registration form (which will include sufficient detail that the DB can confirm the applicant is fit for registration under s16 of the HPCAA).

New Zealand dietitians seeking credentialing in Australia under this Charter will need to meet the following:

- Completion of pre-reading in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Awareness - [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Awareness | Dietitians Australia](#)
- Agreement to abide by the DA the 'Code of Professional Conduct' (to sign statement of agreement on the application form).
- Agreement to practice at within the National Competency Standards for Dietitians [National Competency Standards for Dietitians in Australia](#)
- Agreement to participate in the Australian APD program and meet annual Recency of Practice and continuing professional development requirements.

Applicants to either country will need to complete any application requirements of the respective regulatory body (i.e. DA or DB).

DA or the DB may postpone or refuse an application that does not meet the ethical or legal requirements of that authority / jurisdiction.

For verification of registration/certification and good standing, applicants will be asked for consent for the DA and DB to communicate relevant information (status and standing) to the other authority. Verification will ensure that there are no outstanding issues around complaints, disciplinary action or performance.

DA and the DB will provide each other, as soon as is practicable, with information reasonably required about an individual in connection with an application for recognition. The confidentiality of personal information exchanged between the parties will be respected, treating it as other personal information held in their databases.

Any overseas trained dietitian who has not completed a written Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) and an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) as part of their registration process with the DB, will need to have worked in NZ for a minimum of 12 months, including 12 months supervision in NZ to be eligible for the APD program. If this is not completed, they will need to complete the Dietetic Skills Recognition (DSR) examination process in Australia.

Mutual Recognition Charter Schedule:

Australian Dietitians Seeking Registration in New Zealand:

- Step 1: Dietitian submits complete registration application form (including confirmation that cultural safety requirements have been met) and payment.
- Step 2: The DB reviews the application, including checking with DA on the status of credentialing and good standing of the applicant.
- Step 3: Once all steps are completed, the Dietitian is granted registration and may apply for an Annual Practising Certificate. The Dietitian will be expected to comply with Policies, Standards and MyCCP requirements established by the DB as well as NZ legal requirements for registered healthcare practitioners.

New Zealand Dietitian Seeking APD Status in Australia:

- Step 1: Dietitian submits application for credentialing, including relevant details specified above, and signs a statement on the credentialing application form “and “I agree to abide by the DA ‘Code of Conduct for Dietitians and Nutritionists’”.
- Step 2: Dietitian completes pre-reading in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Awareness Resources
- Step 3: DA checks with the DB on the status of registration and good standing of the applicant.
- Step 4: Once all steps are completed, the Dietitian is recognised and may apply to join DA and the Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) program, agreeing to undertake ongoing APD program requirements and making the associated payment.

Term of Charter:

This Mutual Recognition Charter will be in place for three years and will then be reviewed by DA and the DB.

If either party wishes to terminate the Charter without the agreement of the other, they will be required to enter into a compulsory period of mediation. If a resolution cannot be achieved within one month from one party giving notice to the other of mediation, the party intending to withdraw from the Charter will be required to give six months notice of their intention to withdraw.

In the event of a cancellation or withdrawal of this Charter, any dietitian that has achieved APD status or registration via the Mutual Recognition Charter will remain recognised and will not be required to forfeit their New Zealand or Australian dietetic credentialing.