

Raka Māui Competence Programme

A guide for newly registered overseas-trained psychologists

Nau mai, haere mai. Welcome to Aotearoa New Zealand

About the programme

The Raka Māui Competence Programme is a competence programme established by the New Zealand Psychologists Board under section 40 of the *Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003*.

The programme supports psychologists who have completed their primary qualification outside New Zealand to develop the knowledge, understanding and cultural capability required to practise safely and effectively within the unique health, cultural and professional context of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The programme combines learning, supervision and reflective practice to support your transition into safe, culturally responsive practice in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Completion of the programme is a condition of your registration and must be completed within **two years** of registration. The Board recommends completing the programme within **18 months** to allow sufficient time for assessment and feedback.

About the name *Raka Māui*

The programme takes its name from the whakataukī:

E raka te mauī, e raka te matau.

The left hand is adept and the right hand is skilful.

This whakataukī recognises that people bring different strengths and abilities which, together, contribute to effective practice.

As an overseas-trained psychologist, you already bring valuable professional knowledge, skills and experience. Raka Māui acknowledges this existing expertise while supporting you to develop an understanding of the country's unique cultural, legislative and professional context.

The programme is intended to support that journey by building confidence in culturally safe practice, strengthening understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori health perspectives, and supporting safe and effective psychology practice within New Zealand.

Programme Overview

The programme consists of six activities completed over approximately 18 months. During this time you will:



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- complete the required online learning modules;
- develop a continuing competence plan with your Board-approved supervisor;
- undertake reflective learning activities throughout your first year of practice;
- submit evidence to the Board at the required milestones; and
- complete all programme requirements within two years of registration.

Your supervisor will support your learning throughout the programme and provide quarterly reports to the Board until all requirements have been completed.

Programme Requirements

If you obtained your psychology qualification outside New Zealand, you are required to complete the following activities:

Task	Requirement	Evidence	Timeframe
1	Complete the Mauriora Cultural Competency (Maori) programme	Certificate of completion	May be completed before registration (within six months prior). Submit within three months of registration
2	Complete either the Foundations Course in Healthcare and the Treaty of Waitangi or the First Module Nga Paerewa Te Tiriti elearning module (Ministry of Health)	Certificate of completion	Submit within three months of registration
3	Develop a Continuing Competence Plan with your Board-approved supervisor that focuses on New Zealand-specific issues. This will depend on the scope of practice in which you are registered, and might include, but is not limited to: • Knowledge of NZ legislation relevant to role • Knowledge of the Board's Continuing Competence Programme • Knowledge of Board Guidelines (including, but not limited to) Cultural Safety, Keeping Records, Informed Consent, and Supervision • Knowledge of Code of Ethics/Code of Conduct • Understanding and application of te Tiriti o Waitangi • Understanding third-party funding arrangements and any related expectations or standards set by funders (e.g., ACC, Ministry of Education, Employers).	Supervisor-signed Continuing Competence Plan	Submit within three months of registration
4	Review Māori Health Models and reflect on how they influence your psychology practice when working with Māori. Seek	Written reflection	Submit together with Tasks 5 and 6 between 9 and 18 months after registration

	advice and/or support from a colleague if required		
5	Reflect, in supervision, on your first year of practice in New Zealand, including how your understanding and assumptions have developed	Supervisor-signed reflection	Submit between 9 and 18 months
6	Read the Board's Standards of Clinical Competence, Standards of Cultural Competence and Code of Ethics, and complete reflections linking these to your practice experiences	Supervisor-signed reflection	Submit between 9 and 18 months

Submit all evidence of completion to:

registration@nzpb.org.nz

Your supervisor's role

Your Board-approved supervisor plays an important role throughout the programme.

They will:

- support your transition into New Zealand psychology practice
- assist you to develop your Continuing Competence Plan
- discuss your reflections and professional development
- verify completion of required activities
- submit quarterly supervision reports to the Board until you have completed Raka Māui

Timeframes

The Board expects most psychologists will complete Raka Māui within approximately **18 months**.

Tasks 4–6 are designed to be completed after you have gained sufficient experience practising in New Zealand. For this reason, the Board is unlikely to accept these reflections before you have been practising for at least **nine months**.

All programme requirements must be completed within **two years** of registration.

Completion of the programme

Once all requirements have been received and assessed, the Board will advise you in writing that you have successfully completed the Raka Māui Competence Programme.

Once the Board is satisfied that you have successfully completed all programme requirements, you will be advised in writing and the conditions relating to Raka Māui will be removed from your registration.

If you are unable to complete the programme

If you are experiencing difficulties completing the programme within the required timeframe, you should contact the Board as early as possible.

The Board may consider granting a one-off extension of up to six months where there is good reason and a realistic plan for completion.

Failure to complete the programme may result in the Board exercising its powers under section 43 of the *Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003*, including imposing conditions on practice or suspending registration.

Continuing your cultural learning

Raka Māui is intended to be the beginning of your cultural learning journey rather than the end.

The Board encourages all psychologists to continue developing their understanding of te ao Māori throughout their careers by:

- seeking cultural supervision
- learning te reo Māori
- engaging with local iwi and hapū
- participating in continuing professional development
- joining a professional psychology association
- reading Māori literature and research
- visiting museums, galleries and places of cultural significance
- keeping informed about developments in Māori health and wellbeing

Further information

If you have questions about the programme, please discuss them with your supervisor in the first instance. If further advice is required, you or your supervisor can contact the Board at registration@nzpb.org.nz

The Board wishes you every success as you begin your psychological practice in Aotearoa New Zealand and looks forward to supporting you throughout your Raka Māui journey.