

# Hei ārahi i te hunga Manapou i whakapōtaea e Te Wānanga Aronui o Tāmaki Makau Rau rānei, e Te Wānanga o Whitireia rānei

## Guidance for paramedic graduates from Auckland University of Technology or Whitireia

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*Mai i te kōpae ki te urupā, tātou ako tonu ai | From the cradle to the grave, we are forever learning*

### What is Te Kaunihera?

To mahi/work as a health practitioner in Aotearoa New Zealand, you must be registered and hold a practising certificate with the responsible authority for your profession (for example, doctors, nurses, dentists and pharmacists). Te Kaunihera Manapou Paramedic Council (Te Kaunihera) is the responsible authority for paramedics.

Our primary [purpose](#) is to protect the health and safety of members of the public by ensuring that paramedics are competent and fit to practise. We do this by accrediting (recognising) qualifications that paramedics complete, [registering](#) paramedics and issuing [practising certificates](#) for those we believe are competent and fit to practise and setting standards that registered paramedics must meet.

Our duties and functions are set out under section 118 of the [Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003](#) (HPCA Act).

### Why do I need to register?

If you want to [practise as a paramedic](#) or call yourself a paramedic in Aotearoa, you must be registered with Te Kaunihera. If you do so without being registered, you could be investigated and prosecuted by the Ministry of Health. Future employers may also require you to hold registration before they will employ you as a paramedic.

### How do I register and what documents do I need to provide?

You can apply for registration online by creating a [MyPMC](#) account on Te Kaunihera's website. You will need to provide:

- a certified copy of your passport or driver licence
- if you have changed your name, a certified copy of your name change document
- a Ministry of Justice criminal conviction check that is less than 6 months old

- a completion certificate for one of these cultural competence courses:
  - Mauriora – [Foundation Course in Cultural Competency](#) - **Note, there is a fee associated with this online course.**
  - LearnOnline – [Foundations in Cultural Competency](#)

[This guidance](#) gives further advice on the types of documents you need to provide with your online application.

Once you have submitted your online application and made payment for registration, your qualification will be verified by the relevant person from within AUT or Whitireia.

If we can confirm you are competent, meet the fitness for registration requirements and hold a prescribed (recognised) qualification, we will approve your registration. This can take up to 20 working days after you have submitted your application.

### **What does “fitness for registration requirements” mean?**

Fitness for registration is a requirement that is set under the HPCA Act and relates to anyone who wants to be a health practitioner – not just paramedics. It means that:

- you can satisfy us that you can communicate effectively
- you can speak and understand English<sup>1</sup> well enough to protect the health and safety of the public
- you have not been convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for a term of 3 months or longer and that reflects adversely on your fitness to practise
- you do not have a mental or physical condition that prevents you from performing the functions required for the practise of your profession
- you are not facing professional disciplinary proceedings that reflect adversely on your fitness to practise
- you are not being investigated about a matter that may be the subject of professional disciplinary proceedings and that investigation reflects adversely on your fitness to practise
- you are not subject to an order of a professional disciplinary tribunal, an educational institution or an authority or similar body that reflects adversely on your fitness to practise
- we do not have reason to believe you may endanger the health and safety of the public.

If you do have any concerns around any of the fitness for registration requirements, please [contact us](#) to discuss if and/or how this may impact your registration application.

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<sup>1</sup> Te Kaunihera acknowledges there are three official languages in Aotearoa: Te Reo Māori, English and New Zealand Sign Language.

### **How do I get a practising certificate?**

Once your registration has been approved, you can log in to MyPMC and apply for a practising certificate. The practising certificate cycle runs from 1 April each year until 31 March the following year.

If you intend to apply for registration in the last few months of a practice year, please contact the [Registration Coordinator](#) to discuss payment options.

### **Do I need a job before I register?**

No – however, you can (and should) apply for registration after graduation.

### **When can I call myself a paramedic?**

Once you have registered with Te Kaunihera, you can call yourself a paramedic. Once registered, you don't need to be working as a paramedic to refer to yourself as a paramedic.

### **When do I need to register? Is there a time limit for completing registration?**

We recommend that you apply for registration after you have graduated.

If you wait more than 3 years to register with us (and you aren't practising as a paramedic in another country), we may require you to complete a competence assessment programme before you can be registered.

### **How do I pay for registration if I don't have a job yet?**

You could ask your future employer if they are able to reimburse your registration fee, or you could contact Work and Income New Zealand (WINZ) to see if they can provide you with assistance.

### **What if I want to work in Australia or another country rather than Aotearoa?**

If you want to work overseas, you will need to contact the organisation that is responsible for registering paramedics in that country.

- For [Australia](#), you should contact the [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency](#) (Ahpra).
- For the United Kingdom, you should contact the [Health and Care Professions Council](#) (HCPC).

If the country you want to work in doesn't have a responsible authority or regulator, your future employer should be able to provide you with advice.