

## English language policy

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**Policy statement** Section 16(c) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA) requires Te Kaunihera Manapou Paramedic Council (Te Kaunihera) to be satisfied that any applicant for registration can communicate and comprehend English sufficiently to protect the health and safety of the public.

Kaunihera acknowledges that Aotearoa New Zealand has three official languages: Te Reo, English and Sign Language.

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**Procedure** **Applicants with qualifications from Aotearoa New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera is satisfied that those applicants who have completed their paramedicine qualification in Aotearoa, are able to communicate and comprehend English to an appropriate standard.

**Overseas applicants**

All registered paramedics from overseas (excluding those applying for registration under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997 (TTMR)), must satisfy Te Kaunihera of their ability to communicate and comprehend English.

Te Kaunihera will be satisfied of this where an applicant:

1. Declares that English is their first language, and has completed their undergraduate paramedic training in a country where English is the first language (Aotearoa, Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, United States of America); or
2. Has sat an accepted English language test and achieved the minimum results which Te Kaunihera considers indicate a pass in the test.

The English language tests which are accepted by Te Kaunihera are the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and the Occupational English Test (OET). Applicants must sit one of these tests and provide a certified copy of their results to Te Kaunihera with their registration application.

The results for the test must be valid at the time registration is approved, rather than when the registration application is submitted. This is important for applicants to note as some registration processes can take some time to complete.

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The minimum requirements to achieve a pass result for an IELTS test are:

- A minimum score of 7 for each band (Writing, Speaking, Reading, and Listening)
- The applicant must sit the Academic module
- The results for each band must be obtained in one sitting
- The results must be less than two years old from the date the test has been sat by the applicant

The minimum results to achieve a pass result for an OET test are:

- A minimum score of 350 for each component (Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking)
- The results for each component must be obtained in one sitting
- The results must be less than two years old from the date the test has been sat by the applicant

Currently, there is no paramedicine specific Occupational English Test (OET). Te Kaunihera has agreed however that an equivalent pass of the OET test for any other registered health profession will meet the requirements for registration.

### **TTMR applicants**

The TTMR legislation allows those practitioners who are registered and practising as a paramedic in Australia the ability to register and practise in Aotearoa, based on their registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Te Kaunihera is satisfied that applicants who are applying for registration in Aotearoa under TTMR can communicate and comprehend English to an appropriate standard, based on their registration in Australia and AHPRA's English language skills requirements.

### **Right of review**

Te Kaunihera reserves the right to review any applicant's English competence at any time.

