



Policy on Limited Registration

1 Legislation

Under section 13 of the Veterinarians Act 2005:

- (1) The Council may —
 - (a) prescribe the elements of veterinary practice, in terms of 1 or more scopes of practice, in respect of which a person may be registered as a person with limited registration; and
 - (b) amend or revoke any notice published for the purposes of paragraph (a).
- (2) A scope of practice may be described in any way the Council thinks fit, including, without limitation, in any 1 or more of the following ways:
 - (a) by reference to a name or form of words that is commonly understood by veterinarians:
 - (b) by reference to 1 or more species of animal:
 - (c) by reference to an area of science or learning:
 - (d) by reference to tasks commonly performed:
 - (e) by reference to illnesses or conditions to be diagnosed, treated, or managed.
- (3) Before the Council publishes a notice it must satisfy the consultation requirements under the Act and take into account the effect of any proposed scope of practice in relation to New Zealand's economic interests; and maintaining consistency with and support of New Zealand's food safety, biosecurity, and animal welfare regimes.

2 Current Limited Scopes of Practice

Pursuant to s13(a) of the Veterinarians Act 2005, the Council has to date, and following consultation with veterinarians and stakeholders, gazetted the following scopes of practice for Limited Registration.

2.1 Academic scope

The criteria under which the Council may provide a person with limited registration, within the academic scope, despite that person not being otherwise eligible for registration with the council, are if:

- (a) there is an identifiable and specific (to a particular position) need in an academic institution and that need cannot appropriately be met by the appointment of a veterinarian otherwise able to be registered in New Zealand;
- (b) the position is an academic position at a New Zealand tertiary institution acceptable to the council;
- (c) the position requires a person who has completed a primary veterinary science degree of not less than four years;

- (d) the position requires the person to be able to communicate in and understand English to an appropriate standard for practising as a veterinarian in New Zealand;
- (e) the position requires the person to have obtained an appropriate post-graduate qualification;
- (f) the position requires the person to have teaching experience in the type of work in which they will be limited to practise;
- (g) the council is satisfied that the person is fit to practise as a veterinarian in New Zealand; and
- (h) the employer has made a submission relating to the specific application for limited registration under this scope.

2.2 Industry scope – laboratory diagnosis and pathology

The criteria under which the Council may provide a person with limited registration, within the industry scope – laboratory diagnosis and pathology, despite that person not being otherwise eligible for registration with the council, are if:

- (a) there is an identifiable and specific (to a particular position) need in a discipline of laboratory diagnosis and pathology, and where that need cannot appropriately be met by the appointment of a veterinarian otherwise able to be registered in New Zealand;
- (b) the position requires a person who has completed a primary veterinary science degree of not less than four years;
- (c) the position requires the person to have obtained an appropriate and relevant post-graduate qualification in laboratory diagnosis and/or pathology;
- (d) the position requires the person to have experience in the appropriate discipline within laboratory diagnosis and/or pathology;
- (e) the position requires the person to be able to communicate in and understand English to an appropriate standard for practising as a veterinarian in New Zealand;
- (f) the council is satisfied that the person is fit to practise as a veterinarian in New Zealand; and
- (g) the employer has made a submission relating to the specific application for limited registration under this scope.

2.3 Scope relating to a biosecurity or other emergency situation

The criteria under which the Council may provide a person with limited registration, within the biosecurity scope, despite that person not being otherwise eligible for registration with the council, are if:

- (a) there is an identified biosecurity alert or urgent or emergency situation that requires a person to practise in New Zealand, and where that need cannot be met by a veterinarian otherwise able to be registered in New Zealand;
- (b) the position requires a person who has completed a primary veterinary science degree of not less than four years;
- (c) the position requires the person to have obtained experience in the area to which their practise will be limited;
- (d) the position requires the person to be able to communicate in and understand English to an appropriate standard for practising in this context;
- (e) the council is satisfied that the person is fit to practise as a veterinarian in New Zealand;

- (f) the period of limited registration will be limited to the period of time of the emergency or biosecurity situation. Any person gaining limited registration under this scope will be limited to working on the specific biosecurity situation; and
- (g) the employer has made a submission relating to the specific application for limited registration under this scope.

2.4 Scope relating to particular skills for a restricted period

The criteria under which the Council may provide a person with limited registration, within this scope, despite that person not being otherwise eligible for registration with the council, are if:

- (a) the person will be temporarily visiting New Zealand and proposes to practise as a veterinarian, this period not exceeding three calendar months (which may be extended if the council thinks fit for one further period not exceeding three calendar months);
- (b) the person has completed an approved primary veterinary science degree of not less than four years;
- (c) the person is appropriately qualified to practise within this scope of practise;
- (d) the person has knowledge and experience to practise as a veterinarian in the area in which their practise will be limited, subject to any restrictions (if any) as the council may specify;
- (e) the person can communicate in and understand English to an appropriate standard for practising as a veterinarian in New Zealand;
- (f) the council is satisfied that the person is fit to practise as a veterinarian in New Zealand;
- (g) supervisory requirements are likely under this scope; and
- (h) the employer or relevant organisation has made a submission relating to the specific application for limited registration under this scope.

For clarification, this category is not intended to provide registration for veterinarians in general clinical practice.

3 Policy

Each application for limited registration in a prescribed scope of practice is considered on an individual basis by the Registration Committee, which makes a registration recommendation to the Council.

Veterinarians registered in a limited scope of practice are subject to the same statutory provisions as other registered veterinarians which include the requirement to hold an annual practising certificate, in order to be able to practise.

The initiative to explore the establishment of scopes of limited practice, additional to those set out in 2) above, does not rest solely with the Veterinary Council. The Council will carefully consider all proposals to establish additional scopes of practice taking into account the statutory requirements.