

# Continuing Competency of Registered Nutritionists EXPLANATORY NOTES



## Aim of Continuing Competency

*To ensure Registered Nutritionists maintain their professional competency.*

Continuing competency acknowledges nutritionists are already pursuing continuing education opportunities and provides motivation for others to do so.

## The following Nutrition Society rule pertains to continuing competency:

### **(g) Continuing Competency**

All members of the Society who obtain admission as Registered Nutritionists shall on each 3rd anniversary of their admission, submit their completed application form before the Nutrition Registration Panel to remain as Registered Nutritionists. The application form will include the following information:

- qualifications and employment during the previous three years
- details of continuing competency
- the names of referees

As a Registered Nutritionist, you are responsible for determining your continuing competency requirements. There are currently no set criteria. Your application will be considered on its own merits. The registration panel will look to see that you have maintained the level of knowledge and experience reached on your initial application.

The panel will consider the following mix when determining if your application is successful:

- Continuing competency activities - records for up to the last 3 years before re-applying
- Relevant employment
- Two referees - referee reports not required
- Additional qualifications

It is highly recommended that at least one referee is a member of the Nutrition Society or a Registered Dietitian. It is self-evident that there are many fields of practice in the nutritional sciences and the panel trust that your professionalism will assure that you will practice only in your recognised field of expertise.

## **Registered Nutritionists who are part-time or take time out from the workforce**

The same requirements need to be met by all Registered Nutritionists over the three-year period. The panel will consider activities over the total three-year period to account for time away from maintaining competency or work. Applicants need to show an effort has been made to maintain or return to competency activities when returning to the workforce with an emphasis on activities like contact with nutritionists and attending professional updates rather than delivering presentations.

## **Registered Nutritionists who have not applied for re-registration within 5 years of when it was due.**

If you have not applied for re-registration within 5 years of when it was due or have not been working in the field of nutrition, you will need to re-apply for full registration as opposed to re-registering.

## **Registered Nutritionists working in Practice**

The Registration panel advises that those currently registered in Practice should be regularly supervised by a Registered Nutritionist or Dietitian as part of continuing competency and providing competent advice to clients. In some circumstances, the panel will defer registration or re-registration until supervision is in place.

## **Dietitians**

To avoid additional record-keeping, dietitians undertaking continuing competency for Dietitians NZ, can submit Dietitians NZ records in place of a record sheet if activities are applicable. An application form will still need to be completed.

## **Cost**

There is no additional cost to re-register as this is covered by the annual registration fee.

## **Closing Date**

The Registrar will send an email reminder informing you that your registration is due to expire, 3 months prior to your expiration date. Applications for registration close twice yearly on 28 February and 31 July.

**Registrar** [registration@nutritionistsociety.ac.nz](mailto:registration@nutritionistsociety.ac.nz)

## Completing the Application Form

Please provide a typed application containing the information required. You can email all documents through to the registrar – [registration@nutritionssociety.ac.nz](mailto:registration@nutritionssociety.ac.nz)

All information collected on the application form is confidential to the registration panel. The information on your application form will remain on a database with the Registrar.