



New Zealand
Teachers Council

Te Pouherenga Kaiako o Aotearoa

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

December 2008



Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou

Meri Kirihimete me nga mihi hoki o te tau hou!

Seasons Greetings to you all.

EMPLOYMENT OF OVERSEAS TRAINED TEACHERS

It's that time of year when professional leaders are making teaching appointments for the New Year. This may involve consideration of teachers with overseas qualifications. The following important areas need to be considered when employing overseas teachers:

- assessment of overseas qualifications
- overseas police certificates
- evidence of English language proficiency
- the form that is required to be completed.

For teachers wishing to emigrate to New Zealand and be employed in teaching positions, there are several agencies involved:

- New Zealand Teachers Council;
- New Zealand Qualifications Authority;
- New Zealand Immigration Service; and
- for recruitment funding and salary assessments, the Ministry of Education.

PLEASE NOTE: an overseas teacher should only be offered a teaching position in New Zealand conditional on the applicant gaining registration from the New Zealand Teachers Council.

All these key processes must be dealt with as soon as possible:

- Applicants are required to apply for an NZQA assessment of overseas qualifications to determine their comparability to a New Zealand teaching qualification.
- The New Zealand Teachers Council uses the Qualifications Assessment Report when considering whether an applicant meets the standard of satisfactorily trained to teach.
- Check eligibility of the applicant with New Zealand Immigration.

It should be noted that holding Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) does not, on its own, equal the ability to gain teacher registration in New Zealand.

Similarly, successfully completing an employment based route, such as a *Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP)*, does not usually lead to an academic award from an accredited institution. Therefore, it does not, on its own, equal the ability to gain teacher registration in New Zealand. As employment based routes do not lead to an academic award, they cannot be assessed by the evaluation service of NZQA. There is a discretionary pathway called 'Track 2' for people without approved New Zealand teaching qualifications.

Therefore, applicants who do not have:

- approved New Zealand teaching qualifications; or
- an NZQA Qualifications Assessment Report that provides comparability to a New Zealand teaching qualification.

need to apply via the discretionary pathway called '**Track 2**'.

The full Council consider these cases monthly. An applicant's qualifications, teaching experience, appraisal material and professional development are taken into consideration as a package.

Overseas police certificates

This is a requirement for any applicant applying for registration as a teacher, who has resided in any country other than New Zealand for more than 12 months within the last 10 years. *Please note that these police certificates are often easier to obtain whilst still in the overseas country than when the applicant is in New Zealand.*

English language proficiency

There are several ways in which an applicant could meet this requirement. If they have completed their teacher education qualification in English and in a country where English is an official language, they would need to provide written evidence from the institution confirming that English was the medium of instruction for that qualification. Alternatively they could sit an approved English Language proficiency test such as IELTS. Please refer to our website for the full *Language Policy* and other ways they could meet this requirement.

The standards required

All overseas applicants must meet the same legislative standards required of New Zealand teachers. That is, they are:

- of good character and fit to be a teacher;
- satisfactorily trained to teach;
- is or likely to be a satisfactory teacher; and
- has a police vet satisfactory to the Council.

The form that is required to be completed:

Applicants are required to complete the TC1 – Application for Teacher Registration and 3 Year Practising Certificate form which is available to download from our website www.teacherscouncil.govt.nz and provide the \$120.00 processing fee. Within the form and guide additional documentation is explained and requested for overseas trained teachers.

DRAFT REGISTERED TEACHER CRITERIA

The draft *Registered Teacher Criteria* (RTC) will be gazetted in late January 2009. These draft criteria will provide a benchmark against which teachers will be assessed for gaining and maintaining full registration, once the criteria have been trialled, further considered and formally adopted.

The Council has consulted extensively during 2008 on the draft RTC and the resulting draft RTC will be piloted in 2009. Once the process of evaluating these pilots and other feedback on the draft criteria has been completed, the gazetted, final version of the *Registered Teacher Criteria* will replace the existing *Satisfactory Teacher Dimensions*, which form the current basis for assessing suitability for registration.

During 2009, those schools or settings that wish to test the efficacy of the draft RTC for the purpose of determining teachers' suitability for registration purposes, need to be aware they will still be required to use the *Satisfactory Teacher Dimensions* for all assessments for teacher registrations until the final version of the RTC is formally adopted.

INDUCTION AND MENTORING PILOTS

Pilots for the induction and mentoring of provisionally registered teachers in Māori medium, early childhood settings, primary and secondary schools will begin in 2009. More details of this exciting initiative will be provided early in 2009.

Have a restful, refreshing holiday break!



Dr Peter Lind
Director