



register of exercise professionals

The next Step in REPs' progression – moving on from a Provisional Registration System

Background

Back in 2001 when REPs was first formed, to ensure implementing a registration system did not place undue barriers or bureaucracy on the industry, it was decided to use a provisional registration process. **This allowed all those presently working in the industry to provisionally register** without the need to be first matched up against REPs standards. This system mirrored how REPs was set up in other countries (e.g. the UK).

This system worked well as it allowed those presently working in the industry to register without undue stress placed on them to re-train when it was not necessary. Given that REPs had yet to review all the courses in New Zealand (remember REPs had only just formed), and Sfrito (the government recognised standard setter for education in this area) had few resources to address any recognised training needs, this system of provisional registration was essential to allow REPs to be super-imposed onto an existing industry.

This process has continued until now, so almost all individuals currently registered with REPs are still registered provisionally.

The Current Situation

REPs has completed reviewing the majority of academic courses in New Zealand, and Sfrito has fully resourced all of its national certificates for on job training. This means REPs is able to transition individuals from provisional to full registration. This also means the registration process for first time applicants will ensure they meet the REPs standards in full (i.e. those that do not meet the standards, will be given the option of assessment and/or training), but will not be granted registration until either is successfully completed.

Now that the vast majority of courses in New Zealand have registered with REPs, and there are on-job training options for those that do not meet the REPs standards, REPs is now ready to progress all those registered from the provisional registration system to either full registration, or identifying gaps that need further assessment and/or training.

Process

The following outlines the process to be followed:

(1) Manually review all current registrations

Individuals registered with REPs will have their qualifications matched up against REPs standards (in detail). The relevance and extent of experience will also be taken into account.

There must be verifiable evidence that the individual is competent, either through passing formal assessment in obtaining a qualification that meets the REPs standards, or by demonstrating on-job competence to the standards set.

This process will be undertaken during the 2007/08 registration period, so as a person re-registers their qualifications will be matched.

(2) Possible outcomes

There are two possible outcomes for each individual to be assessed:

Full Registration

If the individual has completed a REPs registered course in the last five years that meets the standards for the level of registration the individual is currently provisionally registered at, they will be **granted full registration**. This means this person can have their registration recognised overseas without having to first contact REPs NZ.¹

Provisional Registration Carries on

Those that have not completed a REPs registered course in the last five years will be given the option of either undertaking a simple evidence gathering process (which will be free) to verify they meet the requirements of the level they presently provisionally registered at, or undertaking training to met any gaps. The evidence gathering process will be developed jointly by Sfrito (the government's recognised standard setter for education and training in the industry) and REPs. Only those that do not successfully complete this evidence gathering process will be required to undertake training. In such cases training will be based around the specific gaps identified by the evidence gathering process.

Those that do require training and/or assessment will also be given ample time to complete this. Only those that refuse to undertake these processes, or are unable to successfully complete the training will be removed from the register.

Changes to New Registration Process

From 1 October 2007 any individual applying for registration for the first time will be treated in the same way - the outcome of any application will be full registration or it will be considered a provisional registration subject to completion of:

- a recognised course,
- an assessment which determines competency to the required standards
- completion of on job training which results in the awarding of a National Certificate or Diploma.

Applicants who are not willing to meet the standards in one of these ways will not be granted registration until they have completed one of the options.

¹ Note: Some countries, such as Australia still has different standards for various registration levels (e.g. group exercise), but in all cases full registration will enable whatever part of the overseas standards the NZ REPs person does meet to be recognised.