Registering with the Physiotherapy Board of New Zealand

Te Poari Tiaki Tinana (PBNZ). For physiotherapists who trained outside New Zealand.

YOUR REGISTRATION BODY

Physiotherapy Board of New Zealand
Te Poari Tiaki Tinana (PBNZ)

Checked against the Board's pages in October 2026. If anything here differs from what the Board says, the Board is right, and it makes every registration decision.

Every application is assessed individually, and the board makes every registration decision. The latest version, with questions that work out your likely route, is at ethicareresourcing.com/guides/new-zealand-registration-pbnz. Ethicare never charges candidates. This is general information, not immigration advice.

Every route

Trans-Tasman mutual recognition

Full or limited registration with Ahpra.

The fastest and cheapest route.

International Express Pathway

Registered or qualified in the UK, Ireland, Canada or South Africa.

A lighter evidence pack, usually quicker.

International General: Fast Track

Fiji National University from 2013, or Hong Kong SAR since 2015.

The general process, with the gaps already identified.

International General Pathway

Everyone else.

Your degree is assessed against the Practice Thresholds, with a chance to fill gaps.

ROUTE 1 OF 4

YOUR ROUTE

Trans-Tasman mutual recognition

✓ Full or limited registration with Ahpra in Australia.

The fastest and cheapest route. If your Australian registration is limited, its supervision conditions apply in New Zealand too.

The board makes the final decision when you apply.

The steps

1

Apply under mutual recognition

NZ$460, with your current Ahpra registration.

Follow the Board's trans-Tasman page, and ask us if anything isn't clear.

2

Your annual practising certificate

NZ$414, levy included. You need it before you work.

Apply on MyPBNZ once registered. The year runs to 31 March, and you get your HPI number from the Ministry of Health.

3

Your visa health and police checks

Separate from registration.

If you're an Australian citizen, you don't apply for a work visa. Separate from registration, for Immigration New Zealand. If you're coming for more than 12 months, expect a medical by one of its panel physicians and, in most cases, a chest X-ray, for everyone on the application, children included. The certificate must reach Immigration New Zealand within three months of being signed, and you'll need police certificates too. General information, not immigration advice: our visa guide.

ROUTE 2 OF 4

YOUR ROUTE

International Express Pathway

✓ Registered, or qualified, in the UK, Ireland, Canada or South Africa.

Usually quicker than the general pathway, with a lighter evidence pack.

The board makes the final decision when you apply.

The steps

1

Do your cultural competency courses first

Two recognised online courses, so start them now.

Either both Mauri Ora Associates courses, or one Mauri Ora course plus Ngā Paerewa Te Tiriti (Modules One and Two, via Ko Awatea LEARN). Ngā Paerewa on its own isn't enough.

2

Gather your qualification documents

Your degree or transcript, plus good standing from every regulator.

Registration evidence doesn't replace the qualification document, so include both.

3

Good standing and police certificates

Each less than three months old when you submit.

Good standing from every physiotherapy regulator you've been registered with. Police certificates from any country you've lived in for more than twelve months in the last ten years since you were eighteen. Balance starting early against the three-month rule.

4

Your CV, on the Board's template

Your own format will be sent back.

Account for every period, including gaps. Build your CV helps with the content.

5

Show your English

A UK, Irish, Canadian or South African qualification counts, with no test.

You're also exempt if English is your first language, with documentation. Scores can be combined across two sittings within six months, and results usually last about two years. Check the Board's current minimums before you book.

6

Apply on MyPBNZ

NZ$1,067.

Answer the fitness questions accurately, upload certified documents (or have them sent direct by the issuer) with translations, then reply quickly to any request. The Board doesn't say whether its fees include GST.

7

Your annual practising certificate

NZ$414, levy included. You need it before you work.

Apply on MyPBNZ once registered. The year runs to 31 March, and you get your HPI number from the Ministry of Health.

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Your visa health and police checks

Separate from registration.

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ROUTE 3 OF 4

YOUR ROUTE

International General: Fast Track

✓ A Fiji National University qualification from 2013, or a Hong Kong SAR degree since 2015.

The general process, but the Board has already identified which competencies need extra evidence.

The board makes the final decision when you apply.

The steps

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Do your cultural competency courses first

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Either both Mauri Ora Associates courses, or one Mauri Ora course plus Ngā Paerewa Te Tiriti (Modules One and Two, via Ko Awatea LEARN). Ngā Paerewa on its own isn't enough.

2

Gather your qualification documents

Your degree, transcript, curriculum and clinical hours profile: all four.

The curriculum and clinical hours profile are the two people most often forget.

3

Good standing and police certificates

Each less than three months old when you submit.

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Show your English

IELTS Academic, OET, PTE Academic or TOEFL iBT, unless you're exempt.

You're also exempt if English is your first language, with documentation. Scores can be combined across two sittings within six months, and results usually last about two years. Check the Board's current minimums before you book.

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Apply on MyPBNZ

NZ$1,735.

Answer the fitness questions accurately, upload certified documents (or have them sent direct by the issuer) with translations, then reply quickly to any request. The Board doesn't say whether its fees include GST.

7

Show any competencies the Board asks for

You get three months, and only the gaps need proving.

Use the Board's Reflections template and Validation of Work History form, with specific examples from your training or work.

8

Your annual practising certificate

NZ$414, levy included. You need it before you work.

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ROUTE 4 OF 4

YOUR ROUTE

International General Pathway

The Board compares your degree with the Practice Thresholds, competency by competency. If there are gaps, you get three months to show those competencies with evidence.

The board makes the final decision when you apply.

The steps

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What it costs

Trans-Tasman route	NZ$460
Express pathway	NZ$1,067
General pathway	NZ$1,735
Annual practising certificate	NZ$414, with the disciplinary levy included

Fee schedule from 1 April 2026, checked 17 October 2026. The Board doesn't say whether these include GST, so treat them as a minimum until you've asked.

Questions people ask

REGISTRATION

Will I work under supervision?

Only if you come through trans-Tasman recognition with limited Australian registration, in which case its conditions carry across. It's the only supervision requirement on any overseas pathway.

What if my degree doesn't cover every competency?

On the general pathway you're told which competencies to show and get three months to provide evidence. Ones already shown don't need proving again.

Can I work while I'm assessed?

No. You need registration and a current practising certificate first, so plan your move around both.

DOCUMENTS AND ENGLISH

Can I use my own CV format?

No. The Board requires its downloadable template and will send yours back.

Do I need an English test?

Not if English is your first language, or your physiotherapy qualification is from the UK, Ireland, Canada or South Africa. Otherwise IELTS Academic, OET, PTE Academic or TOEFL iBT, with minimums in every part.

Does Ethicare charge candidates?

No, never. If you're moving with us, ask whether your package covers your practising certificate.