



Policy on Limited Registration

1 Legislation

Under section 13 of the Veterinarians Act 2005 (the Act):

- 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.

Under section 14 of the Act

- 1) A person may apply to the Council for limited registration in terms of 1 or more scopes of practice notified under section 13.
- 2) Subsection (3) applies if the Council is satisfied that the applicant —
 - (a) is appropriately qualified to practise within the scope or scopes of practice in the notice; and
 - (b) is a fit and proper person to be registered; and
 - (c) can communicate in and understand English to an appropriate standard for practising as a veterinarian in New Zealand; and
 - (d) has paid the prescribed application fee.
- 3) The Council must —
 - (a) register the applicant and enter his or her name in the register —
 - (i) subject to the conditions of practice that the Council considers appropriate (if any); and
 - (ii) subject to the time limits on registration that the Council considers appropriate (if any); and
 - (b) notify the applicant in writing that he or she is registered; and
 - (c) issue the applicant with a certificate of limited registration.
- (4) If the Council is not satisfied that the applicant meets the requirements of subsection (2), the Council must —
 - (a) decline the application; and
 - (b) notify the applicant in writing of —
 - (i) its decision (with reasons); and
 - (ii) his or her right of appeal against the decision.

2 General Policy Considerations

Sections 13 and 14 of the Act allow the Council to define scopes for limited registration and consider, for limited registration, certain applicants who would not otherwise be eligible for registration because they do not hold an approved qualification or a pass in an approved examination or assessment programme.

In defining scopes of limited practice, and considering applications for limited registration, the Council will do so from its overarching statutory purpose of protecting the public interest.

The initiative to explore the establishment of scopes of limited practice, additional to those set out in 3) below, 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 and its statutory purpose.

All of the scopes for limited registration:

- a) have rigorous registration criteria which the Council must be satisfied applicants meet before approving their applications; and
- b) involve restrictions on practice.

For clarification, registration in a limited scope of practice is not a route to general veterinary registration in New Zealand. To be entitled to this, applicants must hold an approved qualification or have sat and passed an approved examination or assessment programme (see this [New Zealand Gazette Notice](#) for the primary degrees and examination of assessment programmes the Council recognises).

The Council has delegated its powers, under s14 of the Act, to consider and approve applications for limited registration to its Registration Committee. However any decision to decline applications for limited registration rests with 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 and meet minimum practising standards in order to be able to practise.

3. Current Limited Scopes of Practice – Registration Criteria and Policy Requirements

The Council has, following consultation with veterinarians and stakeholders, gazetted the following scopes of practice for Limited Registration under section 13 (1) (a) of the Act:

3.1 Academic scope

The gazetted criteria under which the Council may provide a person with limited registration in the academic scope, despite that person not being otherwise eligible for registration as a veterinarian in New Zealand, 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 applicant holds a primary veterinary science degree of not less than four years;
- d) the applicant can communicate in and understand English to the standard required 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 applicant 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.

Each application for limited registration is considered on its own merits as a separate case. Applications for registration in the Academic Scope will be assessed against the above criteria and will include consideration of:

- a) the sufficiency of the employer's submission in demonstrating:
 - (i) the need for this academic position
 - (ii) why it cannot be filled by the appointment of a veterinarian otherwise able to be registered in New Zealand
 - (iii) that they have read, understand and will comply with the requirements of this policy
 - (iv) the safeguards in place to ensure the person confines their practice to the area it is proposed their practice be limited to;
- b) the duration of the applicant's primary veterinary training; whether their veterinary degree is listed in the [AVMA Listed Veterinary Colleges of the World](#); and whether they qualified in, or are registered with a comparable overseas jurisdiction which performs functions that correspond to those performed by the Veterinary Council;
- c) if English is not the applicant's first language whether or not they have sat and passed an approved English language test to the required level or meet the exemption criteria. See the Council's [Policy on English Competence](#) at <http://www.vetCouncil.org.nz/pubs.php#policies>;
- d) the sufficiency of the applicant's post graduate qualifications and teaching experience to equip them for the academic work it is proposed they undertake;
- e) whether the applicant is fit to practise. To allow this to be assessed the applicant must arrange for letters of good standing to be sent directly from all the registration bodies they are, or have been, registered with. Any New Zealand or overseas convictions; conduct or professional competence investigations or findings; and mental or physical conditions must also be declared in the registration application form with details provided by separate letter so the impact on the applicant's fitness to practise can be determined. Failure to declare such matters will jeopardise a positive registration outcome or lead to registration being cancelled in the future.

3.2 Postgraduate Training Scope

The gazetted criteria under which the Council may provide a person with limited registration in the postgraduate training scope, despite that person not being otherwise eligible for registration as a veterinarian in New Zealand, are if:

- a) the applicant holds a primary veterinary science degree of not less than 4 years;
- b) the applicant is temporarily visiting New Zealand specifically for the purpose of undertaking postgraduate training;
- c) the applicant is enrolled in a formal postgraduate training programme with a body which certifies training programmes and administers examinations leading to qualifications generally considered acceptable for specialist registration purposes in New Zealand;
- d) the Council is satisfied of the rigour of the proposed postgraduate training programme, the adequacy of the veterinary supervision, and the sufficiency of safeguards in place to ensure that the student confines his or her practice to the area of their postgraduate training and to a Council approved location;
- e) the Council is satisfied that the applicant is fit to practise as a veterinarian in New Zealand and is registered and in good standing status in his or her own country and any other jurisdictions they are registered in; and
- f) the applicant can communicate in and understand English to the standard required for practising as a veterinarian in New Zealand.

Registration in this scope is limited to the period of the registrant's post graduate training programme (normally not exceeding four years) and:

- a) is subject to the supervision of one or more veterinarians approved by the Council;
- b) limited to the area of the registrant's postgraduate training programme; and
- c) restricted to the tertiary institution or referral or specialist practice providing the training.

Registration lapses in the event of withdrawal from the training programme.

To be eligible to be considered for registration in this scope, applicants must be enrolled in a formal postgraduate training programme with a body which certifies training programmes and administers examinations leading to qualifications generally considered acceptable for specialist registration purposes in New Zealand.¹

Each application for limited registration is considered on its own merits as a separate case. Applications for registration in the Postgraduate Training Scope will be assessed against the above criteria and policy requirements and will also include consideration of:

- a) the duration of the applicant's primary veterinary training; whether their veterinary degree is listed in the [AVMA Listed Veterinary Colleges of the World](#); and whether they qualified in, or are registered with, a comparable overseas jurisdiction which performs functions that correspond to those performed by the Veterinary Council;
- b) evidence of enrolment in, and documentation on, a postgraduate training programme approved by an internationally recognised certifying body including detail on:
 - (i) the length of the programme
 - (ii) a structured supervision plan
 - (iii) explicit training objectives and the monitoring arrangements;
- c) the sufficiency of the letter of support from the tertiary institution or private referral or specialist practice in:
 - (i) confirming the training post and the rigour of the proposed postgraduate programme
 - (ii) demonstrating their ability to meet the requirements of the training programme and the sufficiency of the supervision arrangements – including names, qualifications and experience of the proposed supervisors
 - (iii) confirming that they have read, understand and will comply with the requirements of this policy
 - (iv) providing details on the safeguards in place to ensure the person confines their practice to the area of their postgraduate training programme;
- d) a statement from the applicant confirming that they:
 - (i) are temporarily visiting New Zealand for postgraduate training purposes
 - (ii) are aware that registration in this supervised limited scope of practice is available on a temporary basis only; is restricted to the institution providing the postgraduate supervised training; is limited to the area of the postgraduate training and lapses in the event of withdrawal from the programme
 - (iii) are aware that registration in this limited scope is not a pathway to continuing registration in New Zealand
 - (iv) are aware that, should registration be approved, the following documentation must be provided to Council on a six monthly basis:
 - evidence of continued enrolment and participation in the postgraduate training programme
 - confirmation from supervisors that this is occurring;

¹ Other international veterinarians who do not hold approved qualifications for registration in New Zealand and who are seeking to take up short term intern positions may be eligible to apply for registration in the scope relating to particular skills for a restricted period.

- e) if English is not the applicant's first language whether or not they have sat and passed an approved English language test to the required level or meet the exemption criteria. See the Council's [Policy on English Competence](http://www.vetCouncil.org.nz/pubs.php#policies) at <http://www.vetCouncil.org.nz/pubs.php#policies> ; and
- f) whether the applicant is fit to practise. To allow this to be assessed the applicant must arrange for letters of good standing to be sent directly from all the registration bodies they are, or have been, registered with. Any New Zealand or overseas convictions; conduct or professional competence investigations or findings; and mental or physical conditions must also be declared in the registration application form with details provided by separate letter so the impact on the applicant's fitness to practise can be determined. Failure to declare such matters will jeopardise a positive registration outcome or lead to registration being cancelled in the future.

3.3 Industry scope – laboratory diagnosis and/or pathology

The gazetted criteria under which the Council may provide a person with limited registration, in the industry scope, despite that person not being otherwise eligible for registration as a veterinarian in New Zealand, are if:

- a) there is an identifiable and specific (to a particular position) need in a discipline of laboratory diagnosis and/or 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 applicant holds 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 applicant can communicate in and understand English to the standard required for practising as a veterinarian in New Zealand;
- f) the Council is satisfied that the applicant 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.

Each application for limited registration is considered on its own merits as a separate case. Applications for registration in the Industry - laboratory diagnosis and/or pathology scope will be assessed against the above criteria and will include consideration of:

- a) the sufficiency of the employer's submission in demonstrating
 - (ii) the need for this position
 - (iii) why it cannot be filled by the appointment of a veterinarian otherwise able to be registered in New Zealand
 - (iv) that they have read, understand and will comply with the requirements of this policy
 - (v) the safeguards in place to ensure the person confines their practice to the area it is proposed their practice be limited to;
- b) the duration of the applicant's primary veterinary training; whether or not their veterinary degree is listed in the [AVMA Listed Veterinary Colleges of the World](http://www.vetCouncil.org.nz/pubs.php#policies) and whether they qualified in, or are registered with, a comparable overseas jurisdiction which performs functions that correspond to those performed by the Veterinary Council;
- c) the sufficiency of the applicant's post graduate qualifications and experience to equip them for the laboratory diagnosis and/or pathology work it is proposed they undertake;
- d) if English is not the applicant's first language whether or not they have sat and passed an approved English language test to the required level or meet the exemption criteria. See the Council's [Policy on English Competence](http://www.vetCouncil.org.nz/pubs.php#policies) at <http://www.vetCouncil.org.nz/pubs.php#policies>; and

- e) whether the applicant is fit to practise. To allow this to be assessed the applicant must arrange for letters of good standing to be sent directly from all the registration bodies they are, or have been, registered with. Any New Zealand or overseas convictions; conduct or professional competence investigations or findings; and mental or physical conditions must also be declared in the registration application form with details provided by separate letter so the impact on the applicant's fitness to practise can be determined. Failure to declare such matters will jeopardise a positive registration outcome or lead to registration being cancelled in the future.

3.4 Scope relating to a biosecurity or other emergency situation

The gazetted criteria under which the Council may provide a person with limited registration, in the biosecurity or other emergency scope, despite that person not being otherwise eligible for registration as a veterinarian in New Zealand, are if:

- a) there is an identified biosecurity alert or urgent or emergency situation that requires the person to practise temporarily 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 the applicant to hold a primary veterinary science degree of not less than four years;
- c) the position requires the person to have obtained experience in the area in which their practice 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 applicant is fit to practise as a veterinarian in New Zealand;
- f) the Council is satisfied of the safeguards in place to ensure that the person confines his or her practice to the specific biosecurity or emergency situation; and
- g) the employer has made a submission relating to the specific application for limited registration under this scope.

Each application for limited registration is considered on its own merits as a separate case. Applications for registration in the Biosecurity or Other Emergency scope will be assessed against the above criteria and will include consideration of:

- a) the sufficiency of the employer's submission in:
 - (i) demonstrating the need for this position and why it cannot be filled by the appointment of a veterinarian otherwise able to be registered in New Zealand
 - (ii) attesting to the English language competence of the applicant for this role if English is not their first language
 - (iii) confirming that they have read, understand and will comply with the requirements of this policy
 - (iv) setting out the safeguards in place to ensure the person confines their work to the specific biosecurity or emergency situation;
- b) the duration of the applicant's primary veterinary training; whether their veterinary degree is listed in the [*AVMA Listed Veterinary Colleges of the World*](#); and whether they qualified in, or are registered with, a comparable overseas jurisdiction which performs functions that correspond to those performed by the Veterinary Council;
- c) the sufficiency of the applicant's post graduate experience to equip them for the biosecurity or other emergency work it is proposed they undertake;
- d) any postgraduate qualifications the applicant may hold;
- e) if English is not the applicant's first language whether they can communicate in and understand English to an appropriate standard for practising in this context;
- f) a statement from the applicant confirming that they are aware that registration in this limited scope of practice is available on a temporary basis for the duration of the biosecurity or other emergency only and is not a pathway to continuing registration in New Zealand; and

- h) whether the applicant is fit to practise. To allow this to be assessed the applicant must arrange for letters of good standing to be sent directly from all the registration bodies they are, or have been, registered with. Any New Zealand or overseas convictions; conduct or professional competence investigations or findings; and mental or physical conditions must also be declared in the registration application form with details provided by separate letter so the impact on the applicant's fitness to practise can be determined. Failure to declare such matters will jeopardise a positive registration outcome or lead to registration being cancelled in the future.

In the event of evidence that the Government is proposing or has declared a biosecurity or other emergency situation Council will give urgent priority to the assessment of applications for registration in this scope of practice. Subject to a completed application form, written advice from the proposed employer addressing the issues in a) above, payment of the fee and confirmation of the veterinarian's qualifications, fitness to practise and good standing status, registration applications will be processed within 2 working days of receipt. However the Council reserves the right, under section 17 (1) (c) of the Act, to cancel any registration applications approved in such circumstances in the event that registration was granted in error.

3.5 Scope relating to particular skills for a restricted period

The gazetted criteria under which the Council may provide a person with limited registration, within this scope, despite that person not being otherwise eligible for registration as a veterinarian in New Zealand, are if:

- a) the applicant is temporarily visiting New Zealand and proposes to practise as a veterinarian for a period not exceeding six calendar months (which may be extended if the Council thinks fit for one further period not exceeding six calendar months);
- b) the applicant holds an acceptable primary veterinary science degree of not less than four years;
- c) the applicant is appropriately qualified to practise within this scope of practice;
- d) the applicant has sufficient 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 applicant can communicate in and understand English to the standard required for practising as a veterinarian in New Zealand;
- f) the Council is satisfied that the applicant is fit to practise as a veterinarian in New Zealand;
- g) the Council is satisfied of the adequacy of the veterinary supervision (which is normally required for registration in this scope); and
- h) the employer or relevant organisation has made a submission relating to the specific application for limited registration under this scope.

Each application for limited registration is considered on its own merits as a separate case. Applications for registration in the Scope Relating to Particular Skills for a Restricted Period will be assessed against the above criteria and will include consideration of:

- a) the sufficiency of the employer's submission in:
 - (i) demonstrating the temporary need for this position and why it cannot be filled by the appointment of a veterinarian otherwise able to be registered in New Zealand
 - (ii) setting out the particular skill set required
 - (iii) providing detail on the proposed supervisory arrangements including the names, qualifications and experience of the proposed supervisors (should supervision be required)
 - (iv) confirming that they have read, understand and will comply with the requirements of this policy
 - (v) setting out the safeguards in place to ensure the person confines their work to the areas it is proposed their practise be limited to;

- b) the duration of the applicant's primary veterinary training; whether their veterinary degree is listed in the [AVMA Listed Veterinary Colleges of the World](#) and whether they qualified in, or are registered with, a comparable overseas jurisdiction which performs functions that correspond to those performed by the Veterinary Council;
- c) if English is not the applicant's first language whether or not they have sat and passed an approved English language test to the required level or meet the exemption criteria. See the Council's [Policy on English Competence](#) at <http://www.vetCouncil.org.nz/pubs.php#policies>; and
- i) the sufficiency of the applicant's qualifications, postgraduate knowledge and experience to practise in the area in which their practise will be limited to;
- j) a statement from the applicant confirming that; they are aware that registration in this limited scope of practice is available on a temporary basis for an initial period of up to 6 months, which may be extended if the Council thinks fit for one further period not exceeding six calendar months; that it is restricted to the practice of the employer who supported their application; that supervision requirements are likely; that it will be limited to the particular skills required of the position and is not a pathway to continuing registration in New Zealand; and
- k) whether the applicant is fit to practise. To allow this to be assessed the applicant must arrange for letters of good standing to be sent directly from all the registration bodies they are, or have been, registered with. Any New Zealand or overseas convictions; conduct or professional competence investigations or findings; and mental or physical conditions must also be declared in the registration application form with details provided by separate letter so the impact on the applicant's fitness to practise can be determined. Failure to declare such matters will jeopardise a positive registration outcome or lead to registration being cancelled in the future.

3.6 Restricted Purpose Scope

The gazetted criteria under which the Council may provide a person with limited registration, within the restricted purpose scope, despite that person not being otherwise eligible for registration as a veterinarian in New Zealand, are if:

- a) there is an identifiable and specific (to a particular position) need in a particular defined field of veterinary practice and where that need cannot be filled by the appointment of a veterinarian otherwise able to be registered in New Zealand;
- b) the applicant holds an acceptable primary veterinary science degree of not less than 4 years; and
 - (i) holds appropriate post graduate qualifications in the particular field of veterinary practice; or
 - (ii) the combination of the applicant's postgraduate experience, continuing education, research and publication history and professional recognition is equivalent to, or as satisfactory as, an appropriate postgraduate qualification subject to such restrictions (if any) as the Council may specify;
- c) the applicant has sufficient knowledge, training and experience to practise as a veterinarian in this scope of practice, subject to such restrictions (if any) as the Council may specify;
- d) the applicant can communicate in and understand English to the standard required for practising as a veterinarian in New Zealand;
- e) the applicant is fit to practise as a veterinarian in New Zealand;
- f) the applicant is registered as a veterinarian with a comparable overseas organisation and is in good standing status; and
- g) the employer or relevant organisation has made a submission relating to the specific application for limited registration under this scope.

Council's rationale in establishing this scope was to provide a pathway to registration, with conditions:

- a) for those who have not completed a primary degree recognised for registration purposes in New Zealand but hold post graduate qualifications, training and experience generally considered acceptable for specialist registration purposes in New Zealand; and
- b) where there is a demonstrated need for their services in New Zealand which cannot be met by a veterinarian otherwise able to be registered in New Zealand.

In rare circumstances, the Council may consider an applicant's postgraduate experience, qualifications, continuing education, research and publication history and professional recognition as equivalent to an appropriate postgraduate qualification for specialist registration purposes. In such circumstances the Council may:

- a) require the applicant to demonstrate competence by sitting and passing the relevant section of the final NZNVE examination or any other assessment set or approved by the Council before approving registration (with the costs to be met by the applicant); and/or
- b) approve registration, but require the veterinarian to work towards membership of ANZCVS (or approved equivalent) through successful completion of the College examination in the relevant branch/field of practice within a specified timeframe.

Registration to practise in a clinical capacity in a very limited subset of a recognised branch or sub branch of veterinary practice is unlikely to be approved.

Supervisory requirements are likely under this scope except in circumstances where the applicant's post graduate qualifications, training and experience would be recognised for specialist registration purposes in New Zealand and the Council is satisfied of their competence to practise independently.

Applicants seeking to practise in a clinical capacity must satisfy the Council of the sufficiency of their post graduate qualifications and in particular the clinical training component. Council is unlikely to be satisfied in this regard unless the training programme was subject to some form of robust external certification or accreditation.

Each application for limited registration is considered on its own merits as a separate case. Applications for registration in the Restricted Purpose Scope will be assessed against the above criteria and policy requirements and will also include consideration of:

- a) the sufficiency of the employer's submission in:
 - (i) demonstrating the need for this position and why it cannot be filled by the appointment of a veterinarian otherwise able to be registered in New Zealand
 - (ii) setting out the particular skill set required;
 - (iii) providing detail on the proposed supervisory arrangements should supervision be required
 - (iv) confirming that they have read, understand and will comply with the requirements of this policy
 - (v) setting out the safeguards in place to ensure the person confines their work to the areas it is proposed their practise be limited to;
- b) the duration and sufficiency of the applicant's primary veterinary training; whether their veterinary degree is listed in the [AVMA Listed Veterinary Colleges of the World](#) and whether they qualified in, or are registered with, a comparable overseas jurisdiction which performs functions that correspond to those performed by the Veterinary Council;
- c) whether the applicant's post graduate qualifications, training and experience for would be recognised for specialist registration purposes in New Zealand;
- d) whether the combination of the applicant's postgraduate experience, training, qualifications, continuing education, research and publication history and professional recognition is considered equivalent to, or as satisfactory as, a recognised postgraduate

- qualification for specialist registration purposes in New Zealand subject to such restrictions (if any) as the Council may specify;
- e) if English is not the applicant's first language whether or not they have sat and passed an approved English language test to the required level or meet the exemption criteria. See the Council's [Policy on English Competence](#) at <http://www.vetCouncil.org.nz/pubs.php#policies>;
 - f) a statement from the applicant confirming that should registration be granted they will confine their work to the areas it is proposed their practise be limited to; that they aware that their practice will be restricted to the practice of the employer who supported their application; that veterinary supervision may be required and that registration in this scope is not a pathway to unrestricted registration in New Zealand; and
 - l) whether the applicant is fit to practise. To allow this to be assessed the applicant must arrange for letters of good standing to be sent directly from all the registration bodies they are, or have been, registered with. Any New Zealand or overseas convictions; conduct or professional competence investigations or findings; and mental or physical conditions must also be declared in the registration application form with details provided by separate letter so the impact on the applicant's fitness to practise can be determined. Failure to declare such matters will jeopardise a positive registration outcome or lead to registration being cancelled in the future.

3.7 Time limited scope for New Zealand based National Veterinary Examination candidates

The gazetted criteria under which the Council may provide a person with limited registration, within this scope, despite that person not being otherwise eligible for registration as a veterinarian in New Zealand, are if Council is satisfied:

- a) the applicant holds a primary veterinary science degree of not less than 4 years;
- b) the applicant has supplied evidence of having sat and passed the New Zealand or Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) preliminary veterinary examination;
- c) the applicant is enrolled to sit the next Final National Veterinary Examination staged by AVBC or the Council;
- d) the applicant has been granted New Zealand citizenship or permanent resident status and has a permanent place of abode in New Zealand;
- e) the applicant can communicate in and understand English to the standard required for practising as a veterinarian in New Zealand;
- f) the applicant is fit to practise as a veterinarian in New Zealand;
- g) the applicant is or was registered as a veterinarian in his or her country of origin and is in good standing status in that jurisdiction and any other jurisdictions they have practised in;
- h) that the purpose of the limited registration is to allow the applicant to gain practical experience under direct veterinary supervision prior to sitting the next Final National Veterinary Examination staged by AVBC or the Council;
- i) that there is a named veterinarian, approved by Council, who is responsible for overseeing the supervised work experience in each practice, who has provided sufficient details for Council to assess the adequacy of the proposed supervised preparation programme and is prepared to report to Council on a 3 monthly basis; and
- j) that the applicant, proposed overseer and veterinary supervisors will abide by the supervisory and other conditions of this scope.

The practice of registrants in this limited scope will be subject to:

- a) veterinary supervisory and reporting requirements;
- b) Council approval of the veterinarian overseeing the work experience programme;
- c) restrictions on where the registrant may practise;
- d) the informed consent of clients. This means that clients must be aware, before providing consent to the treatment of their animal/s, that the person providing the treatment has

- limited registration in New Zealand while preparing for the VCNZ registration examinations;
- e) restrictions on the use of the title “veterinarian” (ie those registered in this scope cannot call themselves a veterinarian but can describe themselves as “a veterinarian in training”);
 - f) time restrictions – with registration expiring on the date of the announcement of the results of the NZ; or AVBC NVE final examination the applicant has been preparing for - or at such earlier date as required by Council;
 - g) a condition prohibiting the registrant from authorising or prescribing restricted veterinary medicines or human medicines;
 - h) a condition requiring all surgical procedures to be performed under direct and observed veterinary supervision; and
 - i) a condition prohibiting afterhours emergency work unless under direct and observed veterinary supervision.

Candidates may apply to have their limited registration renewed in the event of them failing the final New Zealand or AVBC NVE examination or not passing the final examination in its entirety but gaining the right to sit supplementary examinations. Such renewal will expire on the date of the announcement of the results of the final or supplementary NVE examinations.

Each application for limited registration is considered on its own merits as a separate case. Applications for registration in the NVE scope will be assessed against the above criteria and policy requirements and will also include consideration of:

- a) the sufficiency of the submission from the proposed ‘named’ ‘veterinarian in each practice providing the oversight in demonstrating:
 - (i) their understanding that the purpose of this time limited registration is for the candidate to gain practical experience under direct veterinary supervision prior to sitting the next Final National Veterinary Examination staged by AVBC or the Council and that registration expires on the date of the announcement of the results of this examination
 - (ii) their suitability to oversee the proposed supervised work experience
 - (iii) their agreement to provide reports on progress to Council on a 3 monthly basis
 - (iv) that they have read, understand and will comply with the requirements of this policy
 - (v) the adequacy of the proposed directly supervised work experience. As such the submission needs to include:
 - the names and experience of all veterinary supervisors and the safeguards in place to protect the public interest
 - confirmation that the ‘named’ veterinarian and proposed veterinary supervisors are aware of the time limited nature of this supervised scope; the informed consent requirements; that registrants in this scope cannot call themselves or be referred to as veterinarians; that registrants cannot prescribe or authorise restricted veterinary medicines or human medicines or carry out afterhours emergency work unless under direct and observed veterinary supervision and that all surgical procedures are to be performed under direct and observed veterinary supervision
 - the safeguards in place to ensure that the registrant does not pose a risk to the public interest;
- b) the duration of the applicant’s primary veterinary training and whether their veterinary degree is listed in the [AVMA Listed Veterinary Colleges of the World](#);
- c) evidence of the applicant having sat and passed the New Zealand or AVBC preliminary veterinary examination;
- d) evidence that the applicant is enrolled to sit the next New Zealand or Australian final registration examination;
- e) evidence that the applicant has been granted New Zealand citizenship or permanent residence and has a permanent place of abode in New Zealand;

- f) if English is not the applicant's first language whether they have sat and passed an approved English language test to the required level or meet the exemption criteria. See the Council's [Policy on English Competence](http://www.vetCouncil.org.nz/pubs.php#policies) at <http://www.vetCouncil.org.nz/pubs.php#policies>;
- g) a statement from the applicant confirming that, if registered, they:
 - (i) are aware of and will comply with the time limits, practice restrictions and direct supervisory requirements of this limited scope
 - (ii) will only carry out surgical procedures under the direct and observed supervision of a named veterinary supervisor
 - (iii) are aware of and will comply with the informed consent requirements,
 - (iv) will not describe themselves or allow others to describe them as a veterinarian
 - (v) will not prescribe or authorise restricted veterinary medicines or human medicines
 - (vi) will not carry out afterhours emergency work unless under the direct and observed supervision of a named veterinary supervisor
 - (vii) understand that registration in this scope is not a pathway to full registration in New Zealand; and
- h) whether the applicant is fit to practise. To allow this to be assessed the applicant must arrange for letters of good standing to be sent directly from all the registration bodies they are, or have been, registered with. Any New Zealand or overseas convictions; conduct or professional competence investigations or findings; and mental or physical conditions must also be declared in the registration application form with details provided by separate letter so the impact on the applicant's fitness to practise can be determined. Failure to declare such matters will jeopardise a positive registration outcome or lead to registration being cancelled in the future.

4. Declining an Application for Limited Registration

Where the Council is not satisfied that an applicant meets the requirements for limited registration, the Act provides that it must decline the application and notify the applicant of the reasons why and of their right of appeal against the decision.

However, if considering declining an application for limited registration, Council will normally advise the applicant of this and reasons why and seek their comments before making a final decision.

The right of appeal against a Council decision to decline registration is to the District Court (as set out in section 64 of the Act). Appeals must be brought before the Court within 20 working days of the applicant being notified of the Council's decision to decline their application for limited registration. The decision of the Council will remain in force pending the determination of the appeal. The District Court has the power on any appeal to confirm, reverse or modify the Council's decision. The Court may refer the matter back to the Council. The Court may also make any decision that the Council could have made itself.

In some circumstances, the Court may still allow an appeal to be heard even though the 20 working day deadline, as provided in the Act, may have passed.

Policy amended and approved February 2014