

Qualification Title: New Zealand Diploma in Remedial Massage (Level 6)

Qualification number: 2741

Date of review: 20 and 21 November 2024

This report refers to graduates awarded this qualification prior to: **31 December 2023**

Final decision on consistency of the qualification: National consistency is confirmed

Threshold:

The threshold to determine sufficiency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence of graduates being able to:

- provide inclusive, culturally responsive, person-centred, safe practice using client-centred therapeutic relationship skills and meeting professional and ethical standards
- analyse and apply anatomy and physiology knowledge relevant to remedial massage to meet client specific needs
- evaluate, select and apply remedial massage protocols within scope of practice to solve client specific issues
- evaluate, select and apply a range of self-management and client service knowledge and skills to meet remedial massage client and industry requirements.

Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

The following education organisations have been found to have sufficient evidence.

MOE Number	Education Organisation	Final rating
6683	Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology trading as EIT (6007)	Sufficient
6683	Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology trading as SIT (6015)	Sufficient
8661	New Zealand Management Academic (NZMA)	Sufficient
6683	Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology trading as Ara Institute of Canterbury (Ara) (6006)	Sufficient
6683	Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology trading as Wintec (6019)	Sufficient
7282	New Zealand College of Chinese Medicine (NZCCM)	Sufficient

Introduction

The purpose of this 120-credit diploma qualification is to provide the health sector industry and massage therapy profession with people who can provide remedial massage services. Graduates will be able to work independently within the Massage New Zealand scope of practice defined by remedial massage, within a range of settings. They will communicate with and refer to allied health professionals, wellness and medical professionals for those specialist services.

This qualification may lead to higher level qualifications in massage therapy or related allied health areas.

Massage Aotearoa New Zealand (MANZ), the massage therapy specific membership body for professional massage therapists, is the qualification developer for this qualification. Since massage is not regulated in Aotearoa, this body works to support therapists, ensure consistency of practice, and provide some protection for clients.

The qualification was reviewed in 2021, and version 2 was published in April 2022. The next review is scheduled for 2027.

This is the second consistency review for this qualification. The first review was held in March 2020, and the qualification was found to be nationally consistent at this time.

The six tertiary education organisations (TEOs) with programmes leading to the award of this qualification (version one), reported 164 graduates during the period for this consistency review. The consistency review was conducted via online meetings held on the 20 and 21 November 2024 and was attended by representatives of tertiary education organisations with graduates and the MANZ representative.

Evidence

The education organisations provided a range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the graduate profile outcomes.

The criteria used to judge the evaluation question were:

- the nature, quality and integrity of the evidence presented by the education organisation
- how well the organisation has analysed, interpreted and validated the evidence, and used the understanding gained to achieve actual or improved consistency
- the extent to which the education organisation can reasonably justify and validate claims and statements relating to the consistency of graduate outcomes, including in relation to other providers of programmes leading to the qualification.

Evidence included:

The education organisations submitted a range of evidence that could be triangulated to support confidence that their graduates have achieved the graduate outcomes. This included programme design information, including supervised clinical practice hours, assessment and moderation evidence, graduate feedback and destination data, next-level tutor and employer feedback.

How well does the self-assessment and supporting evidence provided by the education organisation demonstrate that its graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold?

There was good evidence that programmes were aligned to the qualification outcomes and that the programmes were reviewed regularly. The TEOs provided good descriptions of how the programmes had built in the required clinical placement hours that allowed students to link theory to practice and build their remedial massage competencies. Evidence demonstrating how the other general conditions of the qualification were met through the programme delivery was also good. Some organisations provided strong evidence that regular quality assurance activities and annual programme reviews contributed to a continual improvement in delivery and assessment practice.

Evidence relating to assessment and moderation was generally good, with the organisations demonstrating that they had sound internal and external moderation processes, and the moderation results validated the assessment outcomes.

Destination evidence was generally strong. Good numbers of graduates had gone on to industry related employment, with a significant number running their own massage practices. A smaller number of graduates had progressed to further study at degree level.

Response rates to graduate surveys was not a strong feature of the TEO's evidence. Some organisations were not able to evidence that they had consistent processes to ensure they maintained good contact with graduates, to gather feedback on their application of the qualification's skills and knowledge, after they had graduated.

Employer evidence was limited. The high proportion of graduates going into self-employment impacts on the availability of this evidence.

Overall, the self-assessment and supporting evidence supplied, by those organisations found sufficient, demonstrates that their graduates meet the graduate outcomes at the determined threshold.

Special Focus (includes special focus on a strand or outcome)

None

Issues and concerns

A number of organisations are no longer offering their programmes towards this qualification. This will potentially impact on the number of graduates available to enter the industry in the future. This trend may be of concern to the qualification developer and to the massage industry.

Recommendations to Qualification Developer

There were no recommendations for the qualification developer.