OSTEOPATHS NEW ZEALAND
NGĀ MĀTANGA WHEUA O AOTEAROA

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28 August 2026

Osteopathic Council of New Zealand
Kaunihera Haumanu Tuahiwi o Aotearoa
By email: osteo.admin@osteopathiccouncil.org.nz

Re: Submission on Proposed Changes to Prescribed Qualifications for Registration in the General Osteopathic Scope of Practice

Tēnā koutou,

Osteopaths New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Osteopathic Council of New Zealand's proposed changes to the prescribed qualifications for registration in the General Osteopathic Scope of Practice.

ONZ supports both proposed amendments. We consider them to be sensible regulatory updates that preserve OCNZ's responsibility for education standards, registration, and public protection, while reducing unnecessary rigidity for prospective education providers and appropriately regulated overseas osteopaths.

New Zealand prescribed qualifications

ONZ supports the proposal to remove references to specific New Zealand qualification titles from the prescribed qualification requirements. The amendment will allow future providers to develop and deliver appropriately named entry-to-practice programmes without requiring the prescribed qualification wording to be amended solely because a programme's title differs from historic qualifications.

ONZ understands and supports the amendment's intention to provide flexibility in programme nomenclature and development while retaining the current qualification levels, the osteopathic nature of the relevant qualification, the integrated-course requirement, OCNZ accreditation and Council approval, and the 2021 Accreditation Standards, rather than reducing entry-to-practice standards.

To assist prospective providers, ONZ would welcome confirmation of whether "approved by the Council" is intended as the formal outcome of OCNZ's existing accreditation process, or as a separate step.

Competent Authority Pathway

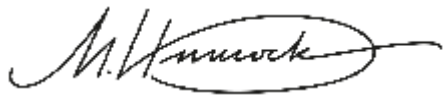
ONZ supports the proposal to rely on current registration with the General Osteopathic Council of the United Kingdom for the Competent Authority Pathway. This appropriately gives effect to the OCNZ-GOsC Memorandum of Understanding, which took effect from 1 January 2026, and avoids requiring applicants to duplicate qualification assurance that GOsC has already undertaken.

ONZ understands that the proposed amendment concerns the prescribed-qualification criterion only and does not remove OCNZ's ordinary responsibility to determine New Zealand registration and Annual Practising Certificate requirements, including any applicable preceptorship and Competent Authority Pathway Programme requirements. ONZ encourages OCNZ to update its public guidance for overseas applicants when the amendment takes effect, so that GOsC registrants can readily understand the pathway and requirements that apply in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Conclusion

Overall, ONZ supports the proposed amendments as proportionate and constructive changes. They preserve OCNZ's established accreditation, approval and public-protection responsibilities while supporting future education programme development and facilitating the efficient mobility of suitably regulated osteopaths between the United Kingdom and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Ngā mihi,



Morgan Hancock
Interim Chair, Osteopaths New Zealand | Ngā Mātanga Wheua o Aotearoa