



## ANALYSIS

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1964, No. 18

**An Act to amend the Occupational Therapy Act 1949**

[16 October 1964]

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

**1. Short Title**—This Act may be cited as the Occupational Therapy Amendment Act 1964, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Occupational Therapy Act 1949 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

**2. Registrar**—(1) The principal Act is hereby amended by repealing section 3, and substituting the following section:

“3. The person who for the time being holds office in the Department of Health as the Advisory Occupational Therapist shall, without further appointment, be the Registrar of Occupational Therapists under this Act.”

(2) Section 2 of the Occupational Therapy Amendment Act 1959 is hereby repealed.

**3. Deputy Registrar**—The principal Act is hereby amended by inserting, after section 3, the following section:

“3A. (1) There shall be a Deputy Registrar of Occupational Therapists under this Act.

“(2) The Deputy Registrar shall be a person, holding office in the Department of Health, nominated in that behalf from time to time by the Director-General of Health.

“(3) During a vacancy in the office of Registrar or during the absence from duty of the Registrar, the Deputy Registrar shall have all the powers, duties, and functions of the Registrar.

“(4) The fact that the Deputy Registrar exercises any power, duty, or function under this Act shall be conclusive evidence of his authority to do so, and no person shall be concerned to inquire whether the occasion has arisen requiring or authorising him to do so.”

**4. Powers of Chairman**—Section 5 of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:

“(3) The Chairman, or any officer of the Department of Health who, at the last meeting of the Board, has attended in place of the Chairman, during the intervals between meetings of the Board, shall have power to act on all matters on behalf of the Board:

“Provided that when the Chairman or any such officer acts on behalf of the Board in a matter which by this Act requires a decision of the Board, he shall first consult the Registrar and shall report at the next meeting of the Board the action that has been taken and the Board may confirm, reverse, or modify the decision of the Chairman or other officer.”

**5. Minimum age for registration**—Section 11 of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from subsection (1) the words “twenty-one”, and substituting the word “twenty”.

**6. Inspection of register**—The principal Act is hereby further amended by inserting, after section 14, the following section:

“14A. The register shall at all reasonable times be open to the public for inspection at the office of the Registrar at Wellington.”

**7. Correction of register**—Section 18 of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding, as subsection (2), the following subsection:

“(2) Where it appears to the Registrar that the name of any person is incorrectly stated in the register, the Registrar may, on application in that behalf and on payment by the applicant of such fee as may be prescribed, correct the register accordingly:

“Provided that no fee shall be payable where the application is to correct a clerical error in the register.”

**8. Provisional certificates**—The principal Act is hereby further amended by inserting, after section 18, the following section:

“18A. (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Act, where it appears to the Registrar that a person who has applied for registration under this Act is qualified for registration, the Registrar may grant to that person a provisional certificate.

“(2) Every provisional certificate shall, unless it has been cancelled or has lapsed, remain in force for the period not exceeding six months stated therein, but any such certificate may from time to time be renewed for a further period not exceeding six months.

“(3) Subject to subsection (5) of this section, the holder of a provisional certificate shall, while the certificate is in force, be deemed for all purposes to be registered under this Act.

“(4) The Registrar may cancel any provisional certificate at any time on the direction of the Board or may, without any such direction, refuse to renew any such certificate.

“(5) Nothing in section 22 of this Act shall apply to the holder of a provisional certificate under this section.”

**9. Notification of disability and suspension of registration**—The principal Act is hereby amended by repealing section 23, and substituting the following section:

“23. (1) In this section—

“‘Hospital’ means—

“(a) Any institution or separate institution within the meaning of the Hospitals Act 1957:

“(b) Any licensed hospital within the meaning of Part V of the Hospitals Act 1957:

“(c) Any institution within the meaning of the Mental Health Act 1911:

“‘Medical Superintendent’, in relation to any hospital, means—

“(a) In the case of any institution or separate institution within the meaning of the Hospitals Act 1957, the medical officer (if any) who is in charge of that hospital:

“(b) In the case of any licensed hospital within the meaning of Part V of the Hospitals Act 1957, the manager of that hospital if he is a registered medical practitioner:

“(c) In the case of any institution within the meaning of the Mental Health Act 1911, the Medical Superintendent of that institution.

“(2) In any case where any person who is registered as an occupational therapist is a patient of a hospital of which there is a Medical Superintendent, if the Medical Superintendent considers that the person is (owing to mental or physical disability) unable to perform his professional duties satisfactorily, and that, because he may attempt to perform those duties, it is necessary in the public interest to prevent him from so doing, the Medical Superintendent shall forthwith give written notice to the Registrar of all the circumstances.

“(3) In any case where any person who is registered as an occupational therapist is not a patient of a hospital of which there is a Medical Superintendent, if any registered medical practitioner is in attendance on that person and considers that the person is (owing to mental or physical disability) unable to perform his professional duties satisfactorily, and that, because he may attempt to perform those duties, it is necessary in the public interest to prevent him from so doing, the medical practitioner in attendance on that person shall forthwith give written notice to the Registrar of all the circumstances.

“(4) In any case where any Medical Superintendent or registered medical practitioner contemplates giving any such written notice to the Registrar, he may seek whatever medical advice, whether psychiatric or otherwise, he considers appropriate to assist him in forming his opinion. Any written notice thereafter so given shall mention any difference between any such advice and the views of the Medical Superintendent or registered medical practitioner as set out in the notice.

“(5) Upon receipt of any such notice, the Registrar shall forthwith take all steps necessary to have it considered by the Board or by a committee of the Board set up under subsection (9) of this section.

“(6) Whether or not the Registrar has received any such written notice as aforesaid in connection with the matter, if the Board or any committee set up by it under subsection (9) of this section is satisfied that any person who is registered as an occupational therapist is (owing to mental or physical disability) unable to perform his professional duties satisfactorily, and that, because he may attempt to perform those duties, it is necessary in the public interest to prevent him from so doing, the Board or committee may, by writing under the hand of the Registrar, suspend the registration of that person under this Act.

“(7) Any such suspension shall take effect forthwith upon its being made, but may at any time be revoked by the Board or any committee set up by it under subsection (9) of this section.

“(8) While any person is so suspended from registration under this section, that person shall be deemed for the purposes of this Act, other than section 25, not to be registered under this Act.

“(9) The Board may from time to time, for the purposes of this section, appoint a committee comprising the Chairman, or person for the time being acting as Chairman of the Board under subsection (2) of section 5 of this Act, and at least one other member of the Board. The appointment of any such committee may be revoked by the Board at any time.”

**10. Appeals**—(1) Section 26 of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from subsection (1) the words “or for a licence under section 23 of this Act”.

(2) Section 26 of the principal Act is hereby further amended by adding the following subsection:

“(6) For the purposes of this section a decision by a committee of the Board set up under subsection (9) of section 23 of this Act shall be deemed to be a decision of the Board.”

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This Act is administered in the Department of Health.

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