



and



Mutual Recognition Voluntary Relationship Charter

Mutual Recognition of the Credentialing and/or Registering of Dietitians

The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) and nine of the ten provincial dietetic regulatory bodies of Canada, hereby referred to as the Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies (Alliance), are entering into this Charter to mutually recognise dietitians who are credentialed or registered in Australia and Canada. The Mutual Recognition Voluntary Relationship Charter (the Charter) will only apply to dietitians with full Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) status (Australia) and/or Registered Dietitians in Canada who hold a current General or Full Certificate of Registration and who have practised as a dietitian for at least twelve months (Canada).

Background:

The DAA and the Alliance have agreed that the standards of DAA credentialing and Alliance registration are sufficiently equivalent to enable a mutual recognition of practising dietitians to be achieved while at the same time preserving the public protection and transparency associated with the credentialing and registration.

These standards cover:

- The Dietetic Practice Domains or Areas of Practice: clinical (individual case management), population/public health dietetics, and food service management
- The competencies required for entry into the profession.
- The maintenance of continuing professional competency.
- The dietetic qualifications, accreditation of educational institutions, and examinations.

The DAA and the Alliance also agree that differences exist in their cultural competency requirements, and that these differences can be addressed by the completion of specialised self-study for applicants for mutual recognition.

The mutual recognition respects that the Charter, as it relates to the Alliance, must be consistent with the requirements of the various provincial laws governing the registration of dietitians.

Mutual Recognition Voluntary Relationship Charter Conditions:

The Mutual Recognition Voluntary Relationship Charter applies to Australian dietitians with full APD status, that is those who have practised for at least twelve months and completed their provisional APD program, and to Canadian registered dietitians who hold a current general or full certificate of registration and who have practised as a dietitian for at least twelve months. For greater clarification, the time that a dietitian practises while holding a temporary certificate of registration is included in the twelve months.

Such dietitians credentialed by the DAA are acceptable to the nine provincial regulatory bodies for automatic eligibility for a temporary certificate of registration or equivalent which will enable them to practise in the province that issued the certificate and to sit the Canadian Dietetic Registration Examination (CDRE). After successful completion of this examination, they will be eligible for a general or full certificate of registration. A temporary and a general or full certificate of registration permits the holder to practise dietetics in the province that issued the certificate. Some limitations on practice and on the use of the Registered Dietitian title may exist in a province for holders of a temporary certificate of registration.

Dietitians who hold a general or full certificate of registration with one of the nine provincial dietetic regulatory bodies in Canada are acceptable to the DAA for automatic eligibility to sit the DAA Dietetic Skills Recognition Examinations for credentialing for practice within Australia.

Confirmation by the DAA or provincial regulatory bodies to the other organisation that an applicant has good standing with their credentialing/registration and practising status suffices to identify that the dietitian complies with the requirements of the authority with which she or he is registered, including requirements for continuing competence programs.

Australian dietitians seeking registration in Canada under this Charter will need to meet the following:

- Reading information as follows: (links to the information are attached as appendix 1, page 8 of the Charter)
 - Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide
 - International Dietetics & Nutrition Terminology (3rd edition) Standardized Language for Nutrition Care Process
 - Canadian Food Inspection Agency Nutrition Labelling, Nutrition Claims and Health Claims
 - Dietary Reference Intakes
 - Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice
 - Canadian Diabetes Association 2008 Clinical Practice Guidelines
 - Province-specific Standards and Legislation (in province where an APD intends to practice dietetics)
- Agreement to take any jurisprudence test the provincial regulatory body uses and participate in the provincial regulatory body's continuing competency programme.

Australian dietitians are encouraged to take an on-line course: Canadian Health Care System, Culture and Content for Internationally Educated Healthcare Professionals (see appendix 1 for on-line information)

Canadian dietitians seeking credentialing in Australia under this Charter will need to meet the following:

- Completion of pre-reading in 'Indigenous Health Issues' (e.g. NATSINSAP doc).
- Agreement to abide by the DAA 'Statement of Ethical Practice' and the 'Code of Professional Conduct' (to sign statement of agreement on the application form).
- Reading information as follows:
 - DAA National Competency Standards for Entry-Level Dietitians (2009) <http://daa.asn.au/universities-recognition/national-competency-standards/>
 - National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Nutrient Reference Values for Australia and New Zealand <http://www.nrv.gov.au/>
- Agreement to participate in the Australian APD programme

The DAA and provincial regulatory bodies may require applicants to declare the following in their application:-

- A statement that the applicant is credentialed or registered as a dietitian in the other country (providing a copy of the document(s) evidencing the applicant's existing registration)
- A statement that registration is being sought in accordance with the mutual recognition voluntary relationship charter between the DAA and Alliance.
- Specification of other jurisdictions, if any, in which the applicant currently has or has previously held registration as a dietitian.
- A statement that the applicant is not the subject of any preliminary investigations, actions or disciplinary proceedings in any other jurisdiction. A statement that the applicant's registration has been neither cancelled nor suspended in any jurisdiction as a result of disciplinary action.
- A statement that the applicant is not otherwise personally prohibited from continuing as a dietitian in Australia and Canada, and is not subject to any special conditions in practising as a dietitian as a result of criminal, civil, or disciplinary proceedings.
- A statement that the applicant has complied with all requirements for any continuing competence programme.
- A statement giving consent to the DAA or the provincial dietetic regulatory body to make inquiries and exchange information regarding the applicant's activities as a dietitian and other matters relevant to the application.
- A witnessed statement that all of the information provided with the application is true and correct in every particular and detail.

No dietitian with any restriction or limitation regarding their practice in their country of registration/credentialing will be eligible to apply for Mutual Recognition.

The DAA or a provincial dietetic regulatory body may postpone or refuse an application where:

- Information required by the application is not provided.
- Information provided in the application is materially false or misleading.
- There are reasonable grounds to believe that there has been an attempt to obtain the applicant's registration/credentialing by fraud.
- The circumstances of the applicant have materially changed since the date of application.

The DAA and the provincial dietetic regulatory body will provide each other, as soon as is practicable, with information reasonably required about an individual in connection with an application for recognition. The confidentiality of personal information exchanged between the parties will be respected, treating it as other personal information held in their databases.

It is not the DAA or Alliance's intention that a registrant should become disentitled to recognition/registration in one country solely because the person ceases to be credentialed/registered in the other (once the registration process is complete).

A dietitian who is credentialed or registered by DAA or one of the nine provincial regulatory bodies under 'mutual recognition' only needs to meet the requirements of the continuing education/professional development program of that organisation ie: the Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) programme if credentialed in Australia or the continuing competency or quality assurance programme of the provincial regulatory body where they are registered in Canada.

Mutual Recognition Voluntary Relationship Charter Schedule:

Australian Dietitian Seeking Registration in Canada:

- Step 1: Dietitian submits registration application (Application) as provided by the provincial dietetic regulatory body and pays the application fee.
- Step 2: When requested by either the applicant or the provincial dietetic regulatory body, the DAA submits directly to the provincial dietetic regulatory body a completed Mutual Recognition for Credentialing/Registration form (Form).
- Step 3: Dietitian attests to reading the required information (Attestation).
- Step 4: Application, Form and Attestation are reviewed by the provincial dietetic regulatory body who, in keeping with the terms of the Charter, approves the issuance of a temporary certificate of registration and authorizes applicant to sit the CDRE.
- Step 5: Upon payment of fees, the dietitian is granted a temporary certificate of registration and is registered to sit the next available CDRE.
- Step 6 – Upon successful completion of the examination the dietitian is eligible for a full certificate of registration.

Canadian Dietitian Seeking APD Status in Australia:

- Step 1: Dietitian submits application for Assessment of Eligibility to sit the DAA Examinations in Dietetics (Application) as provided by the Dietitians Association of Australia. (NB Assessment fee is waived.)
- Step 2: DAA checks with the provincial dietetic regulatory body on the status of registration and good standing of the applicant (Form).
- Step 3: Dietitian completes pre-reading in Indigenous Health (Quiz).
- Step 4: Application, Form and Quiz are reviewed by DAA who, in keeping with the terms of the Charter, approves applicant to sit the Examinations in Dietetics
- Step 5: Applicant pays exam application fees and sits the Examinations in Dietetics.
- Step 6: Upon successful completion of the examinations and payment of annual membership fees, the dietitian is eligible to join DAA with full APD status and agrees to undertake ongoing APD program requirements (audited annually).

With the exception of writing the exams as set out, all steps may be completed while the dietitian is in the home or sending country.

Transparency of Standards:

DAA and the Alliance agree to give notice to each other of any significant changes to the following standards. This notice shall be at least 3 months before coming into effect :

- the Competencies required for entry into the profession
- the credentialing/registration qualifications,
- standards of accreditation of education programs, and
- modifications to the credentialing/registration examination.

Term of Charter:

The Charter will be reviewed in 2014 and thereafter after every five years or when a need arises.

If the DAA or any of the nine provincial regulatory bodies wish to terminate the Charter without the agreement of the others, they will be required to enter into a compulsory period of mediation, and if a resolution cannot be achieved within one month from one party giving notice to the other of mediation, the party intending to withdraw from the Charter will be required to give six months notice of their intention to withdraw.

In the event of a cancellation or withdrawal of this Charter, any dietitian that has achieved credentialing or registration via the Mutual Recognition Voluntary Relationship Charter will remain recognised and will not be required to forfeit their Canadian or Australian dietetic credentialing or registration.

APPENDIX 1

Canadian Health Care System, Culture and Content for Internationally Educated Healthcare Professionals	Canadian Health Care System, Culture and Context Course, University of Toronto www.iehpcanada.utoronto.ca
Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide	Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/foodguide
International Dietetics & Nutrition Terminology (3 rd edition) Standardized Language for Nutrition Care Process	The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (formerly the American Dietetic Association) www.eatright.org
Canadian Food Inspection Agency Nutrition Labelling, Nutrition Claims and Health Claims	Canadian Food Inspection Agency www.inspection.gc.ca
Dietary Reference Intakes	Health Canada: Food and Nutrition Dietary Reference Intakes at www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/nutrition/reference/index-eng.php
Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice	Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP) www.pdep.ca
Canadian Diabetes Association 2008 Clinical Practice Guidelines	The Canadian Diabetes Association resources for professionals www.diabetes.ca
Province-specific Standards and Legislation (in province where the Australian dietitian intends to practice dietetics)	
College of Dietitians of British Columbia (CDBC) www.collegeofdietitiansbc.org	Nova Scotia Dietetic Association (NSDA) www.nsdassoc.ca
College of Dietitians of Alberta (CDA) www.collegeofdietitians.ab.ca	New Brunswick Association of Dietitians (NBAD/ADNB) www.adnb-nbad.com
Saskatchewan Dietitians Association (SDA) www.saskdietitians.org	Newfoundland and Labrador College of Dietitians (NLCD) www.nlcd.ca
College of Dietitians of Manitoba (CDM) www.manitobadietitians.ca/home.aspx	Prince Edward Island Dietitians Registration Board (PEIDRB) Email: peidrb@pei.sympatico.ca
College of Dietitians of Ontario (CDO) www.cdo.on.ca	