# Exceptions to Residency Status Policy for Trainee Funding

To be eligible for training funding, health professionals wishing to enter programmes funded by the Ministry of Health’s Health Workforce Directorate (the Directorate) must be New Zealand citizens or hold a permanent resident visa.

The Directorate will consider exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis.

## Guidelines for applications

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) pays training funding to the employer or training provider (e.g. district health boards or, in the case of GPs, the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners). A prospective trainee must first be assessed as suitable for a training programme and/or training position by a Ministry funded provider.

There are three pre-requisites for exceptions:

1. The prospective trainee works, or will be working, in an area of need as defined by the Ministry. This may change in time as the work on defining areas of need is fine-tuned and agreed.
2. It is a training programme for which there are insufficient New Zealand citizen/permanent resident candidates.
3. The prospective trainee intends to obtain a permanent resident visa when eligible and provides evidence of their commitment to remain in New Zealand long-term.

The Ministry funded provider must then submit an application to the Directorate setting out why the prospective trainee should be considered as an exception to the residency policy.

The Directorate will review funding approval for a trainee previously approved if their situation changes in such a way that the basis on which the funding was initially approved no longer apply. The Ministry funded provider is responsible for advising the Directorate of any change in circumstances that may affect a trainee’s exception funding.

## Residency intentions

To support the application, candidates are required to:

1. be on a pathway to obtaining a New Zealand permanent resident visa;
2. clearly understand Immigration New Zealand’s requirements for obtaining a permanent resident visa and when they would be eligible and;
3. show evidence of their commitment to remain in New Zealand long term.

**Australian citizens/Australian permanent residents**

An Australian citizen/Australian permanent resident who has been funded through a New Zealand medical school by the New Zealand government will generally be approved for Ministry training funding.

An Australian citizen/permanent resident who has grown up in New Zealand or completed at least part of their primary or secondary school education in New Zealand should include that information with the application.

Other Australian citizens/permanent residents seeking Ministry training funding must be considered under the exceptions policy in the same way as citizens and permanent residents of other countries.

## How to apply

Applications must be made in writing by the Ministry funded provider by completing an application form.

Applications should include relevant information set out in the guidelines above, including:

* reasons for the request
* evidence of the lack of New Zealand citizen/permanent resident candidates
* prospective trainee’s residency intentions (including evidence of commitment to remain in New Zealand long term)

The Directorate will make a decision after review of the application on a case-by-case basis and will contact the training provider if further information is required.

All completed application forms (signed and dated by the Ministry funded provider) and queries should be sent to the below email address.

Email: info@healthworkforce.govt.nz