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Framework for dietetic recognition between countries

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Abstract
Globalisation is a phenomenon affecting all professions. Mutual recognition of qualifications between countries, particularly those with similarities in language, culture and health systems, may enable international mobility. The benefits of such exchanges are beyond those afforded to the individuals involved but also the broader profession allowing recognition of similarities and differences and ultimately cross fertilisation of ideas.

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Framework for dietetic recognition between countries

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Globalisation is a phenomenon affecting all professions. Mutual recognition of qualifications between countries, particularly those with similarities in language, culture and health systems, may enable international mobility. The benefits of such exchanges are beyond those afforded to the individuals involved but also the broader profession allowing recognition of similarities and differences and ultimately cross fertilisation of ideas. The aim of this work was to establish a framework to facilitate mutual recognition which could be applied between any countries wishing to establish such an arrangement. The framework was developed based on outcomes of negotiations between the Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies and the Dietitians Association of Australia. The key elements of the framework are scope of practice; educational standards; competency standards, practical placements and assessment to practice (entry to practice); accreditation standards; quality assurance/ continuing competency requirements and the cultural context in the country under consideration. Each of these elements requires review of documentation and consideration of key criteria to determine similarities, differences and equivalency. Negotiation of mutual recognition between countries requires reflection on the core elements of dietetic education, practice and evaluation and this in itself has proved a valuable exercise. We envisage clear application of an assessment framework will ensure recognition between countries will only occur when the arrangement is mutually beneficial.

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