



17 May 2021

Tēnā koutou

Outcome from consultation on proposed Council fees and disciplinary levy

Thank you for considering the Medical Council of New Zealand's (Council) recent consultation on the proposed Council fees and disciplinary levy, and thanks to the individuals and organisations who made submissions.

Council received 31 written submissions from 22 individual doctors and 9 organisations. These submissions were reviewed by Council at its meeting on Tuesday 13 April 2021. After careful consideration of the feedback, Council resolved to approve:

- a. an increase to the practising certificate fee and disciplinary levy to an inflation adjustment of 0.7% overall.
- b. other proposed fees as outlined in the consultation document.
- c. the re-evaluation fee for college advice for vocational applications where the advice has not been favourable and the applicant chooses to have it reconsidered, was revised from a proposed fee of \$750 to \$1,200 excluding GST to reflect the time and work involved for colleges to re-evaluate the application.

Council acknowledged the findings of the activity-based costing review, which is important to ensure the Council's fee structure remains fair and equitable by limiting any cross subsidisation through the practising certificate fee. Council was pleased that an increase to the practising certificate fee and disciplinary levy was able to be limited to an inflation adjustment of 0.7% overall, as shown below.

A full schedule of fees payable to the Council was published in the New Zealand Gazette today and takes effect from 1 July 2021. These are also attached to this letter.

Practising certificate (PC) fee and disciplinary levy ¹

The components making up the combined PC fee and disciplinary levy are set out in the following table.

PC fee and disciplinary levy	2020/21 Fee	2021/22 Fee	\$ Change	% Change
Practising certificate fee	\$599.96	\$571.70	- \$28.26	- 4.71 %
Disciplinary levy	\$168.25	\$201.90	+ \$33.65	+ 20.00 %
Total PC fee and disciplinary levy	\$768.21	\$773.60	+ \$5.39	+ 0.70 %

Key themes of submissions

52% of responses were supportive of the proposed fee increases, including the retention fee to be charged to non-practising doctors who choose to remain on the register. 19% were against, with the

¹ All figures are GST exclusive unless otherwise stated.

remainder indicating non-specific or unrelated responses. Many acknowledged that the proposed fee structure appeared reasonable and was based on principles of equity and fairness in relation to those activities listed in the fee schedule.

Several responders said that the proposed increase in the medical college advice fees may discourage employers (including district health boards) from recruiting positions where no suitably qualified, New Zealand based applicants exist.

In response, Council has requested that the situation is monitored to ensure the fees do not provide a barrier to international medical graduate applicants. Council was mindful that if it did not reflect the increased costs of the services of the medical colleges where they lay, then it would mean a greater increase to the practising certificate fees for all doctors.

Other responses cited concern around affordability and economic hardship due to COVID-19. Council is very aware of the need to keep our own costs under control and to minimise all of our fees at all times.

On behalf of the Council I would like to take this opportunity to thank those individuals and organisations who took the time to read and respond to the consultation.

Nāku noa nā,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C Walker', written in a cursive style.

Dr Curtis Walker
Chairperson
Medical Council of New Zealand

Fees Payable to Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa | Medical Council of New Zealand from 1 July 2021¹

A	Practising certificate (PC) or Interim PC including Disciplinary Levy	
	> Annual PC fee	773.60 ^{2,3,5}
	> Application to vary existing PC	301.67
	> PC quarterly fee (used only when bringing a doctor into their registration cycle)	193.40 ⁵
B	Disciplinary levy - levy for 12 months	201.90
C	Registration fees	
	<i>Application for registration in a provisional general/general scope of practice:</i>	
	> Provisional general registration (NZ/Australian/NZREX graduate)	301.67
	> Provisional general registration (Australian General Registrant)	482.67
	> Provisional general registration (competent authority)	482.67
	> Provisional general registration (comparable health system)	1,508.35
	> General registration (NZ/Australian graduate)	482.67
	<i>Application for registration in a provisional vocational / vocational scope of practice:</i>	
	> Vocational registration (for those registered in the General scope of practice, who have been awarded the prescribed qualification)	241.34
	> Vocational registration (for those who are not registered in the General scope of practice, who have been awarded the prescribed qualification)	482.67
	> Provisional vocational registration (for international medical graduates with overseas specialist qualifications)	3,620.04
	> Vocational practice assessment	16,783.35 ^{1,5}
	<i>College advice fees for registration in a provisional vocational scope of practice</i>	
	> Assessment of documents (preliminary advice)	1,650.00 ¹
	> Interview (final advice)	3,900.00 ¹
	> Re-evaluation	1,200.00 ¹
	> Advice on supervisor/employment	200.00 ¹
	<i>For registration in a special purpose scope of practice:</i>	
	> Special purpose postgraduate training	965.34
	> Special purpose locum tenens / teleradiology / research	603.34
	<i>Other registration-related fees:</i>	
	> Application to change existing scope or conditions	301.67
	> Restoration of registration	301.67
	> Annual Retention fee (non-practising status)	130.43
D	Certificate Signed by the Registrar	
	> Certificate of professional status, Certificate of registered information, and any other document confirming registration status/standing or internship details	181.00
E	New Zealand Registration Examination (NZREX Clinical)	
	> Application fee	670.91 ⁵
	> Examination fee	3,870.66 ^{1,5}
	> Review of decisions (recount)	341.33
	> Appeal of decisions (impairment or exam process)	511.99
	> Withdrawal, or transfer, prior to, or on, the cut-off date for the specified exam (6 weeks prior to exam)	341.33
	> Withdrawal after the cut-off date for the specified exam (20 working days or more prior to exam)	774.13
F	Screening Programmes	
	> Testing administrative charge (per test)	137.66
	> Charge per test for urine / hair / blood (recharged at cost)	at cost ⁴
	> Cost of breathalyser unit / re-calibration of breathalyser unit (recharged at cost)	at cost ⁴
G	Sexual Misconduct Assessment	
	> Administrative charge only	1,798.03 ^{1,4}

H	Contribution to Educational Supervision Costs	
	> Administrative charge only	2,400.85 ^{1,4}
I	Educational – Pre-Vocational	
	Accreditation of training provider	31,725.35 ⁵
J	Educational - Vocational	
	> Accreditation New Zealand-only training providers	
	- Training provider with 300 or more paying members	22,154.00 ⁵
	- Training provider with fewer than 300 paying members	17,119.00 ⁵
	> Accreditation of training providers recertification programme only	10,070.00 ⁵
K	Recognition of vocational scope of practice / Assessment of a recertification programme	
	> Vocational education and advisory body application for recognition of new vocational scope of practice	7,258.08 ⁵
	> Application for assessment of an individual recertification programme for a vocational scope of practice	3,024.00 ⁵
L	Register	
	> Register for 12 months downloaded from the Council's website	309.47
	> Request for one copy of the Register	154.73
	> Register data requests (<i>Fee is per hour but may be adjusted depending on the nature of the query. Any disbursements will be recovered at cost</i>)	154.73

Key to annotations

1. All fees are non-refundable unless denoted.
2. Reduced fee payable for first time applicants applying for registration within a provisional or special purpose scope of practice where the appointment is for six months or less. For appointments longer than six months, the PC fee will be charged to bring medical practitioners on to their PC cycle.
3. Fee includes a disciplinary levy of \$201.90.
4. Services provided by external providers are on-charged in full by Council. A one-off administration fee is charged up front to cover the cost of Council staff time and overheads.
5. Fee adjusted by inflation only.