

Annual Practising Certificate Fee Consultation Feedback

Thank you for considering the Pharmacy Council's consultation document on the proposed Annual Practising Certificate (APC) fee. The full consultation document can be found [here](#).

Following an extensive review of submissions, the Pharmacy Council has decided to set the 2019-20 APC fee at \$793.62 including GST, lower than its original proposal.

Summary

The Pharmacy Council invited submissions on the proposed APC fee in August 2018. Council members would like to thank those who made a submission, of which there was a total of 114.

Submissions

The majority disagreed with the Pharmacy Council's proposed overall fee increase of 1% (or just under \$8.00 for a practising pharmacist). Many comments noted that pharmacist wages are not increasing, making the APC fee unaffordable. Comments also questioned the need for another fee increase given previous rises, as well as the extent of work the Pharmacy Council is undertaking.

A minority did appreciate that this proposed fee was lower than fee changes in previous years, and therefore agreed with the proposal.

Pharmacy Council's response

The Pharmacy Council has listened to the feedback and will set the 2019-20 APC fee increase at only 0.1% which is a composite adjustment of a 2% increase (as opposed to the proposal of 3%) in the APC fee and a 12% decrease in the disciplinary levy. Making some internal adjustments for project timelines has also allowed for this smaller fee increase.

The original fee proposal took increased workload into account. However, after careful consideration, the Pharmacy Council is confident it can set a small fee increase and the workload just above the existing level for another year.

The Pharmacy Council operates on a cost recovery basis, which means some expenditure (e.g. natural disasters, legislation changes, disciplinary cases) items do vary and cannot be well predicted which can undermine our preference to maintain fee adjustments at a consistent level.

The APC fee will be reviewed on an annual basis, with small annual fee increases preferable to irregular large fee increases.

For the year beginning 1 April 2019, the APC fee will be set at \$793.62 including GST. This will be reviewed again next year.

Thank you

The Pharmacy Council appreciates all those who made a submission.

Ngā mihi nui

Michael Pead
Chief Executive