

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Proposed Annual Practising Certificate Fee Reductions for 2017/2018

Released: 8 December 2016

Submissions Due: 17 January 2017

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

The Osteopathic Council of New Zealand (**the Council**) is consulting on the proposed reduction of two fees in this document:

1. The Annual Practising Certificate (APC) fee for the general scope of practice; *and*
2. The APC fee for the special purpose scope of practice.

This reduction is proposed for APC's only, meaning full year practising certificates, in the two scopes mentioned.

The Council will consider all submissions prior to the proposed fees being amended by notice in the Gazette. The Council invites comments on the proposal by **5.00pm on 17 January 2017**. The proposal will also be published on the Council's website (www.osteopathiccouncil.org.nz) with a similar invitation to comment.

Subject to any issues about the proposed reduction of the above fees which may be raised during the four week consultation period, both fees are intended to be immediately amended by notice in the Gazette, in order to come into effect by 14 February 2017.

OBJECTIVE

The aim of this consultation is to seek input from stakeholders prior to the Council making a final decision on the proposed reduction of the two fees noted above. The Council is consulting on the proposed reduction of the two fees with all registered osteopaths, relevant associations, education providers and Responsible Authorities with an interest, as well as the Ministry of Health.

The Council has prepared this consultation paper in accordance with the principles outlined in The Treasury's *Guidelines for Setting Charges in the Public Sector* (December 2002) and Office of the Controller and Auditor-General, *Charging Fees for Public Sector Goods and Services* (June 2008).

INTRODUCTION

The Council is a regulatory body with a wide range of obligatory responsibilities under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act) to foster the competence of the profession and to regulate practitioners in terms of competence, fitness and conduct standards.

The Council's activities are not funded by government appropriation, but by the profession as a whole.

The major share of revenue to finance the Council's activities comes from APC fees. Revenue next year from 2017/18 APC fees is expected to be eighty-five percent of the Council's total income, the balance coming from small volumes of assessment fees, registration fees and bank interest.

PROPOSAL

In accordance with section 131 of the HPCA Act, the Council has previously Gazetted a disciplinary levy payable by practitioners who apply for an APC in the general scope of practice and an APC in the special purpose scope of practice.

A disciplinary levy is for the purpose of funding the costs arising out of:

- a) The appointment of, and any investigation by, any professional conduct committee; and
- b) Proceedings of the Tribunal.

Over the last few years the Council has been working to establish an appropriate disciplinary reserve to deal with conduct matters. Now that Council has established this reserve and because there have been no major disciplinary matters the Council has been required to fund recently, Council is in a position to reduce the disciplinary levy component of the two APC fees noted above for the 2017/2018 year:

1. The disciplinary levy component of the APC fee for the general scope of practice is presently \$350.00 exclusive of GST. Council proposes to reduce this to \$250.00 exclusive of GST; *and*
2. Similarly, the disciplinary levy component of the APC fee for the special purpose scope of practice is presently \$350.00 exclusive of GST. Council proposes to reduce this to \$250.00 exclusive of GST.

Please see itemised components of both annual fees as proposed for the 2017/18 practising year below:

Annual Practising Certificate Fee (General scope of practice)

	Full Year	Oct/Mar	Jan/Mar	3 Month Locum
APC fee	\$ 736.00	399.00	268.00	303.00
Disciplinary levy	<u>\$ 250.00</u>	<u>175.00</u>	<u>88.00</u>	<u>88.00</u>
	\$ 986.00	574.00	356.00	391.00
GST	<u>\$ 148.00</u>	<u>86.00</u>	<u>53.00</u>	<u>59.00</u>
Total	\$ 1,134*	660.00*	409.00*	450.00*

* Rounded to the nearest figure

Annual Practising Certificate Fee (Special Purpose scope of practice)

	Full Year
APC fee	\$ 552.00
Disciplinary levy	<u>\$ 250.00</u>
	\$ 802.00
GST	<u>\$ 120.00</u>
Total	\$ 922.00*

HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

The Council welcomes your views on the proposed level of charges for 2017/2018 as outlined above.

If you wish to make a submission, please provide this in writing by **5.00pm on 17 January 2017**. You can do this by email sent to: registrar@osteopathiccouncil.org.nz or by letter to Osteopathic Council of New Zealand, PO Box 9644, Wellington 6141.

The Council will consider all submissions prior to the proposed fees being prescribed by notice in the Gazette. The proposal will also be published on the Council's website (www.osteopathiccouncil.org.nz) with a similar invitation to comment

The Council does not guarantee that submissions received at the Council's offices after 5.00pm on **17 January 2017** will be considered. Unless requested otherwise, the Council may make any responses public.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Charnock
Registrar
Osteopathic Council of New Zealand