

31 October 2018

Dear Practitioner

This email is being sent to all practitioners.

Thank you to all those who have responded so far to our consultation on fees. It is really heartening that practitioners are responding to this important consultation.

The changes to the fees are a consequence of us doing a full cost analysis of each activity that has a fee charged by the Board. The analysis involves **all** factors, for example staff costs, Board Members costs, infrastructure costs (eg office costs, IT and finance).

It appears from responses so far that we need to offer further information about three particular areas:

- 1. Disciplinary levy**
- 2. Application for registration – overseas**
- 3. Make-up of the practising certificate fee.**

#### **1. Disciplinary levy**

Each year we budget for disciplinary action. Part of this budget is for professional conduct committee/s (PCCs). The PCCs are independent of the Board and investigate alleged misconduct. One of the decisions a PCC can make is to lay charges before the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (HPDT). The cost related to both these activities is met by the Board and comes from the practising certificate fee that all practitioners pay. This in essence is self-regulation.

We have always had a disciplinary levy within the practising certificate fee. However, we are taking this opportunity on consultation to identify and Gazette what the fee is.

Section 130 – 133 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 allows for the Board to set fees and levies.

The levy can only be used for disciplinary matters and cannot be used for general operational costs.

The disciplinary levy may change depending on the disciplinary notifications made and investigated by the Board.

#### **2. Application for registration – overseas**

- Following a cost analysis the true cost of processing an application for registration – overseas – is over \$2,000.

- The cost is made up of the following activities:
  - assessment of qualifications to ensure equivalence with the New Zealand qualification
  - assessment of competence to ensure practitioners from overseas can demonstrate competence to practise safely in New Zealand
  - Board involvement if there are issues with an application
  - policy development and process guidance
  - collection and certifying of documents
  - police checks from a country or countries the applicant has lived in.
  
- As a comparison, the costs from other regulators are as follows:
  - Physiotherapy Board - \$1734
  - Midwifery Council - \$1000
  - Pharmacy Council - \$1970
  - Occupational Therapy Board (Australia) - \$1297

### 3. Make-up of the practising certificate fee

- The calculation of the practising certificate fee is as follows:

New APC fee (excl GST)	GST	New APC fee (incl GST)		Disciplinary levy (excl GST)	GST	Disciplinary levy (incl GST)	APC fee plus Disciplinary levy (incl GST)
\$414.78	\$62.21	*\$477.00		\$20.00	\$3.00	\$23.00	\$500.00

\*Round up from \$476.99

Ngā mihi



**Andrew Charnock**

*Chief Executive and Registrar*

*Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand*