



Outcome from consultation on proposed Council fees and disciplinary levy

Between 13 March and 10 April 2026, Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa | Medical Council of New Zealand (Council) consulted on proposed practising certificate (PC) fees, disciplinary levies, and other fees for the 2026/27 financial year, to take effect from 1 July 2026. The consultation also included the first fee schedule for Physician Associates (PAs), a newly regulated profession, with registration expected to open from 1 October 2026.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to consider the consultation and provide feedback.

Submissions received

Council received 39 written submissions from medical colleges, individual practitioners, professional bodies, and other stakeholders. Some submissions commented on more than one fee proposal. Council considered the submissions at its meeting on 28 April 2026 before making its final decisions.

Where submissions commented directly on medical practitioner fees, PA fees, or both, feedback was categorised as follows:

Feedback	Supportive	Opposed	Other	Total
Medical practitioner fees	7 (22%)	23 (72%)	2 (6%)	32
Physician Associate fees	1 (8%)	6 (50%)	5 (42%)	12

“Other” captures feedback that did not directly support or oppose the relevant fee proposal.

Council’s decisions

After considering the feedback, Council approved the fees and levies for the 2026/27 financial year, commencing 1 July 2026. The annual PC fee and disciplinary levy are as follows:

Profession	PC fee	Disciplinary Levy	Total fee (excluding GST)	Total fee (including GST)
Medical practitioners	\$630.44	\$239.13	\$869.57	\$1,000.00
Physician Associates	\$950.00	\$250.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,380.00

Council also approved:

- an inflation adjustment to all of Council’s existing gazetted fees except where specific changes were approved.
- the introduction of applicable fees for Physician Associates as part of the inaugural fee schedule.
- changes to clarify and present certain fees more transparently, including health screening programme recoveries and professional standards fees; and
- revised fees for recognition of a new vocational scope of practice, reflecting updated standards and assessment processes.

The Fees Notice was published in the New Zealand Gazette on 29 May 2026 and will take effect from 1 July 2026.

Change made following consultation

The approved PA practising certificate fee is lower than the amount consulted on. In setting the final fee, Council considered the budgeted financial position for PAs in the first year of regulation, the expected initial practitioner cohort of approximately 75 PAs, and residual onboarding funding available to support the establishment of the regulatory framework.

The approved fee remains based on the principle that each profession should meet the costs associated with its own regulation, with separate reserves maintained for each profession and no cross-subsidisation between medical practitioners and PAs. PA fees and costs will continue to be monitored as registration is implemented, onboarding activities are completed, and the profession becomes established.

Summary of feedback received

Submitters raised a range of matters. The main themes were:

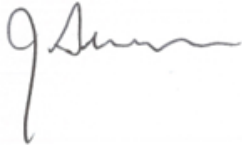
- Affordability and timing - Feedback raised concerns about fee increases given pay restraint, rising costs, and wider workforce pressures. Council remains mindful of these pressures and has limited increases in recent years, including two years where fees were held unchanged and the most recent increase broadly aligned with inflation. In making its decision, Council balanced affordability with its statutory obligations, budgeted costs, reserve position, and the need to maintain effective regulation on a cost-recovery basis.
- Disciplinary levy and reserves - Feedback sought clarity on disciplinary costs, levy assumptions, and reserves. These costs are difficult to predict and vary by the number, complexity, and duration of matters. The 2026/27 budget allows for current and expected activity, while supporting a managed reduction in disciplinary reserves toward Council's long-term reserve level.
- Drivers of the increase - Feedback sought clarification on why the medical practitioner increase was above inflation. The approved increase reflects CPI of 3.1%, a measured contribution toward technology modernisation, and the disciplinary levy required to support expected activity.
- Medical college advice fees - Feedback was mixed, with some support for the inflationary adjustment and some concern that it may not fully reflect the cost of Specialist International Medical Graduate assessment processes. Council has applied the inflationary adjustment for 2026/27 and will engage with the medical colleges on these specific fees through the next scheduled activity-based costing review in early 2027.
- Physician Associate fees - Feedback raised concerns that the proposed PA fees were high for a newly regulated profession. As noted above, Council reduced the approved PA practising certificate fee after considering the profession's budgeted position, expected initial cohort, and residual onboarding funding.
- Profession-specific cost recovery - Feedback emphasised that each profession should meet its own regulatory costs. Council confirms fees and reserves are managed separately for each profession, with no cross-subsidisation.
- Technology modernisation - Feedback sought more information on the scope, funding, rationale, expected benefits, and future fee impacts of the technology modernisation programme. Council's core regulatory system is increasingly costly to maintain and requires modernisation to support secure, resilient, and responsive regulation. The 2026/27 budget includes a \$4m provision, with the proposal due to be considered further by Council in June. Implementation is expected to span more than one financial year, funded primarily from reserves and a contribution from practising certificate fees. Expected efficiencies and savings have been allowed for in the budget, but these benefits will also be realised over future years. Future funding requirements, including any PA contribution once the project is further scoped, will be considered through annual budget and fee-setting processes.

Council remains mindful that fees and levies are funded by the professions it regulates. It is committed to taking a prudent and cost-effective approach while ensuring it can meet its statutory obligations and maintain public safety.

Council's fees are based on an activity-based costing methodology, which is reviewed every three years to support transparency and equity across the fees charged by Council. The methodology also helps minimise cross-subsidisation between fees. The next scheduled review is due in early 2027 and will provide an opportunity to retest fee settings against updated activity, cost, and volume assumptions.

Council appreciates the considered feedback received through the consultation. This feedback helped inform the final decisions, including the decision to reduce the initial PA practising certificate fee.

Nāku noa nā,



Joan Simoen
Manukura | Chief Executive
Medical Council of New Zealand

9 June 2026