



**Consultation on
Kaunihera Manapou Paramedic Council fees**

Opening date: 12 August 2020

Closing date: 21 September 2020

Introduction

1. Te Kaunihera Manapou Paramedic Council (the Council) was established as a Responsible Authority (RA) under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (2003) (the Act) on 1 January 2020. The primary purpose of the Act is set out in section 3 of the Act: “*to protect the health and safety of members of the public by providing for mechanisms to ensure that health practitioners are competent and fit to practise their professions.*”
2. The Council's obligations are set out under section 118 of the Act and include (but are not limited to) requirements to accredit training institutions, consider applications for registration and practising certificates for paramedics, deal with issues relating to the conduct, competence and health of paramedics, and set standards that paramedics must comply with.
3. In order to fund these activities, the Council may prescribe fees under section 130 of the Act. It may also set a separate disciplinary levy under section 131 of the Act. The disciplinary levy funds all matters arising from the appointment of an investigation by a Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) and any proceedings before the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (the Tribunal). All other Council activities (including competence and health matters) are funded by fees.
4. As a statutory authority, the Council operates on a cost-recovery basis. However, the Council also needs to build up enough funds in reserve (both in the general fund and the disciplinary fund) to be able to smooth costs for paramedics as much as possible, while ensuring access to resources to respond appropriately to extraordinary or unanticipated events. The Council will establish an appropriate policy on financial reserves in due course.
5. Most stakeholders will already be aware that the Nursing Council will provide corporate and regulatory support to the Council through a service level agreement. This will assist in containing costs through economies of scale, and will benefit the Council and the paramedic profession through access to the expertise and systems established by a long-standing RA.
6. The proposed fees set out below are the initial fees for the 2020-21 financial year (1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021).

Proposed initial registration fee

7. Initially we are anticipating that you will pay one registration fee if you are registering in one or more scopes of practice.
8. After your initial registration and if you then apply to register in another scope of practice, you will be required to pay an additional registration fee. This additional fee covers the assessment of your qualifications and experience for registration in that additional scope.

Proposed fee for annual practising certificates (APC) 2020-21

9. Council's general operating expenses are covered by the annual practising certificate fee that each paramedic must pay as part of their application to receive a practising certificate each year.

Operating expenses include:

- secretariat costs including staffing, IT, financial management, rent etc
- council and committee member fees and travel
- case management costs for competence and fitness matters
- communications and stakeholder liaison
- developing, implementing and monitoring compliance with relevant standards, policies and competence assurance systems
- legal fees for outsourced legal assistance
- capital expenditure eg the database

10. Prior to the Council's establishment, the profession was consulted on a proposed initial APC fee of \$425.00 together with an establishment fee of \$285.00 (a total of \$710.00). However, since that consultation, there have been multiple developments that mean the proposed fee is no longer realistic. These include:

- the passage of time since the first costing was undertaken (in 2015)
- an increase in the number of Council members from 5 to 7, which increases all Council-related costs including training, equipment, travel and fees
- the introduction of a new database, which now needs to be developed for paramedics.

11. The proposed new APC fee (which includes a disciplinary levy of \$45) is \$600.00. There is no proposed establishment fee; however, there is the registration fee of \$200.00 per (New Zealand) applicant referred to above, bringing the total starting fees to \$800.00 – an increase of \$90.00 on the fees initially consulted. Like the establishment fee that was originally envisaged, the registration fee is a one-off fee.

Other fees

12. It is proposed that applications for registration from Australia, under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997 (TTMR) process, will pay a separate registration, application and processing fee as will any applications from overseas.

13. The proposed fee for Australian (TTMR) applications for registration is \$450.00

14. The proposed fee for other overseas applications for registration is \$760.00

Fee comparison with other similar size RA's

15. The table below shows the proposed fee comparison for paramedics with other similar size RA's:

Regulatory Authority	Practising numbers	Registration Fee (NZ)	Annual Practising Certificate fee
Osteopathic Council of New Zealand	540	\$ 694.00	\$ 1,034.00
Chiropractic Board	652	\$ 153.00	\$ 1,244.80
Dietitians Board	737	\$ 300.00	\$ 625.00
Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board	942	\$ 265.00	\$ 747.00
Podiatrists Board	449	\$ 378.00	\$ 992.00
Psychotherapists Board of Aotearoa New Zealand	551	\$ 400.00	\$ 850.00

Next steps

16. If you would like to provide feedback on the proposed initial fee structure, please click here to complete the consultation survey. The survey closes on 21 September 2020.
17. It should also be noted that there are a number of regulatory activities yet to be considered and costed by the Council. These include (for example) accreditation processes for training institutions. Given the Council is in its early days, it may also be necessary over the initial years to regularly review the practising certificate fee and disciplinary levy. Over time, the Council expects that this will settle.

Council approved schedule of fees (inclusive of GST)

Initial registration fee	200.00
Annual practising certificate fee	600.00
Registration fee for an additional scope of practice	200.00
Registration, application and processing fee for applications under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997	450.00
Registration, application and processing fee for overseas qualified applicants	760.00

