

## Anaesthetic technician fees consultation outcome

Thank you to those who found time to read and respond to the consultation document on its 2024 review of fees payable by anaesthetic technology (AT) practitioners. This consultation ran from 23 October to 2 December 2024, proposing an increase in all fees for anaesthetic technicians including the disciplinary levy. A total of 52 responses were received from registered AT's – plus one from an organisation. This represents approx. 5% of the total workforce that hold practising certificates.

After reviewing feedback (and considering its financial situation) the Medical Sciences Council (the Council) determined at its meeting on 10 December 2024 that:

- the disciplinary levy will **not** be increased and will remain at \$50 (exc GST)
- an **increase in all other fees** is required to ensure the ongoing financial viability of the Council.

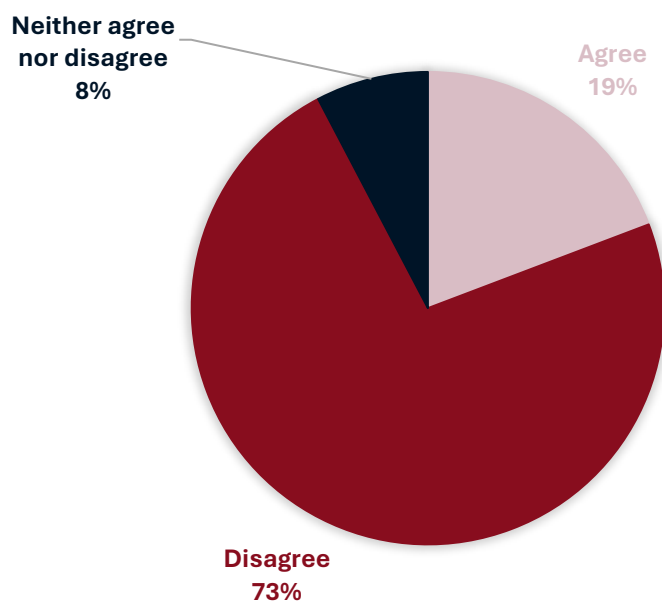
For most practitioners this will mean that the annual practising certificate (APC) cost will rise by \$44.99 (exc GST).

The 2025-2026 fees and levies will be published in the New Zealand gazette on Wednesday 18 December 2024 and will take effect from 12 February 2025. The schedule of fees can be viewed [here](#).

## Summary of consultation outcome – proposed increase in fees

### Proposal 1: increase in all fees

Responses to the proposal to increase all fees were considered with the options – agree, disagree or neither agree nor disagree.



For **those that disagreed** with the increase, the **main reasons given** were divided into the themes listed below:

<b>Recent increase</b>	Reference made to the fees increasing significantly last year.
<b>Health System</b>	Reference to the current government reducing expenditure and the effect on the healthcare system and practitioner wages.
<b>Cost of living</b>	Reference to the increasing cost of living and difficulty in making ends meet.
<b>MSC service</b>	Reference to the MSC not providing sufficient services.
<b>Expense</b>	Reference to the fee becoming too expensive.
<b>Process</b>	Expressed frustration with the consultation process as it is perceived that feedback will not affect the decision.
<b>Comparison</b>	Reference to the potential appeal of other professions and their cheaper APC fees.

## Reasons for increase

The Council considered the responses that were provided to it.

The Council receives no government funding for its operations and is reliant on charging fees to fund its activities.

- The Council recognises practitioner fees were increased recently for the 2024/2025 practising year. This increase was necessary when considering the proposed budget and service level needed to provide efficient regulation of practitioners.
- The Council has sought independent financial advice on how it can continue to remain financially viable into the future. Advice was provided that showed a series of fee increases would be required to ensure the ongoing viability of the Council.

You can view the Council's audited financial statements in our [annual reports](#) and on the [Charities website](#).

- The Council is also experiencing cost pressures relating to delivering its core functions and the strategic plan.
- The Council is investing in new IT infrastructure to improve the processing of registration and practising certificate applications and has almost completed the review of the anaesthetic technician scope of practice and competence standards.

The Council has many functions required under the Act which must be paid for - is audited to ensure it is performing its required functions, and is mindful that it must balance its expenditure on these functions with the fees charged to practitioners.

## Fees comparison

Although fees are increasing to meet increasing costs, when compared to professions of similar size, the annual practising certificate (APC) fee remains consistent with, or lower than, other similar sized

professions. A core strategy that has enabled the Council to keep its fees lower is its partnership arrangement with the Medical Radiation Technologists Board (MRTB), whereby secretariat services are shared. This allows the Council to realise benefits such as more efficient staffing resources, the sharing of office accommodation, and a common IT infrastructure. The Council is also careful when comparing the fees charged by other professions as there are often factors that need to be taken into consideration that may not be obvious.

Profession	APC cost (inc GST) (2025/2026) <sup>1</sup>	Number of practitioners <sup>2</sup> (2024)
Anaesthetic technician	\$522.49 (inc disciplinary levy of \$57.50)	988
Nurse	\$130.00 (inc disciplinary levy of \$33.00)	69,621 (2023)
Doctor	\$927.70 (inc disciplinary levy of \$215.00)	20,048
Occupational therapist	\$497.00 (inc disciplinary levy of \$20)*	3,555
Podiatrist	\$992.00 (inc disciplinary levy of \$175.00)	476 (2023)
Optometrist	\$1,222.00 (inc disciplinary levy of \$37.00)	970
Dental (six different scopes)	\$879.94 - \$1,233.02 (depends on scope)	5,014 (2023)

*\*2023/2024 fee - consultation for a proposed fee increase is currently underway.*

## Proposal 2: increase disciplinary levy to \$100 (excl. GST)

**Outcome:** The Council has decided **not** to adopt this proposal and that the disciplinary levy will remain at \$50 (excl. GST).

More than half of the respondents disagreed with the proposal to increase the disciplinary levy. The main reasons being related to the levy becoming too expensive, the current state of the healthcare system and suggesting the practitioner involved in the case should cover the costs.

If a practitioner is referred to the Tribunal and charges laid are established, then there is a possibility that some costs can be recovered as part of the penalty imposed on the practitioner. However, before charges are laid there is a large amount of work that must be completed which starts with an initial review to confirm if there is a matter to be addressed. This must all be paid for by the Council.

Following consideration of the feedback and further review of costs and disciplinary reserves the Council has decided that there will be **no change to the disciplinary levy** and that it will remain at \$50 (excl. GST).

<sup>1</sup> Extracted from the NZ Gazette. Several professions have updated their fees for 2024/2025.

<sup>2</sup> Extracted from respective annual report or workforce data. Actual numbers vary over the year.