

# CONSULTATION: DISCIPLINARY LEVY

*Open: Monday 24 November 2025*

*Close: Friday 12 December 2025*

## Introduction

Te Poari Kaikorohiti o Aotearoa | the Chiropractic Board (the Board) is consulting on a proposal to reintroduce a disciplinary levy of \$125 per practitioner (pro rata for partial-year Annual Practising Certificate (APC) applications) for the 2026/2027 practising year.

This consultation seeks feedback from chiropractors and stakeholders on the proposal.

## Background

Under sections 130 and 131 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act), the Board sets annual practising certificate (APC) fees and disciplinary levies.

The disciplinary levy funds the investigation and prosecution of professional conduct matters, including (but not limited to) proceedings before the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (HPDT).

For the past three years, the Board has not imposed a disciplinary levy, relying on existing reserves to meet the costs of disciplinary processes. However, the reserves previously set aside for disciplinary matters have now been exhausted, and ongoing delays with HPDT hearings require the Board to draw funds from its general reserves to meet these costs.

This situation is no longer sustainable, and reinstating a disciplinary levy is necessary to help offset disciplinary costs.

The proposal does not include any change to the Annual Practising Certificate (APC) fee, which remains at its current level.

## Proposed disciplinary levy (2026/2027 APC year)

To partially offset the costs of disciplinary matters, the Board proposes to reintroduce a disciplinary levy of \$125 per practitioner for the 2026/2027 APC year. The levy will be reviewed annually.

The levy is calculated on a pro rata basis, using a base of \$125 for a 12-month practising year (approximately \$10.41 per month). This is applied according to the number of months covered by each APC type (rounded to the nearest cent):

Type of APC Application	Months covered	Disciplinary Levy \$	APC fee (no change) \$	Total Fee (incl. GST) \$
Full-year APC	12	125.00	1,003.25	<b>1,128.25</b>
Initial APC (1 November–31 March)	5	52.10	408.00	<b>460.10</b>
Partial year APC (6 months) <sup>i</sup>	6	62.50	501.62	<b>564.12</b>
Partial year APC (3 months) <sup>ii</sup>	3	31.25	250.80	<b>282.05</b>
Renewal of APC after 3+ years not practising	12	125.00	1,242.50	<b>1,342.50</b>

## Why the disciplinary levy is needed

Before the current HPDT cases began, the Board's disciplinary expenditure was modest and manageable within existing reserves. In the 2023/2024 financial year, total disciplinary expenditure was \$82,350. Since then, costs have risen sharply due to multiple HPDT proceedings now in progress.

Over the past 18 months, the Board has incurred approximately \$353,796 in disciplinary-related expenditure, with \$230,000 budgeted for 2026/2027.

The 2026/2027 estimate reflects the expected continuation and potential appeals in three ongoing Tribunal matters, each of which has already been delayed by judicial review proceedings.

The following table highlights disciplinary expenditure and the approximate "costs" per practitioner:

	2026/2027 (draft budget) \$	2025/2026 (Forecast) \$	2025/2026 (YTD) \$	2024/2025 (Actuals) \$	2023/2024 (Actuals) \$
Disciplinary costs	(230,000)	(253,488)	(123,738)	(230,058)	(82,350)
Per practitioner (approx.)	295	325	159	295	105

**Note:** YTD = Year to date, actual spend up to 31 October 2025.

Forecast = projected total to 31 March 2026.

## Impact on practitioners

The reinstated \$125 disciplinary levy represents a partial contribution toward the total cost of disciplinary processes.

The levy will:

- Offset a portion of current disciplinary costs, reducing the extent to which general reserves are used;
- Support the continuation of disciplinary processes required under the HPCA Act; and

Although modest compared to actual expenditure, the levy reflects the Board's commitment to maintaining financial prudence while upholding its public protection mandate.

## Consultation process:

The Board invites feedback from practitioners, professional associations, and other stakeholders on this proposal.

All submissions will be carefully considered before a final decision is made. The confirmed fees and levy will be published in the New Zealand Gazette in early 2026 and will come into effect 24 February 2026.

## How to provide feedback

Submissions can be made by:  **Email:** [admin@chiropracticboard.org.nz](mailto:admin@chiropracticboard.org.nz)

Submissions must be received by **5:00pm, Friday 12 December 2025.**

Nāku iti noa, nā

Glenys Sharman

General Manager/Registrar

*Te Poari Kaikorohiti o Aotearoa / the Chiropractic Board*

November 2025

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<sup>i</sup> The 6-month partial year APCs incurs an additional \$45 admin fee due to the additional administration required to process and monitor.

<sup>ii</sup> The 3-month partial year APCs incurs an additional \$45 admin fee due to the additional administration required to process and monitor.