

August 14, 2018

Mr Andrew Connolly
Chairman
Medical Council of New Zealand
PO Box 10509
The Terrace
Wellington 6143

By email: feeconsultation@mcnz.org.nz

Dear Mr Connolly

Consultation on fees payable to the Medical Council

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the above consultation.

As you will know, the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), which includes the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM), is responsible for the training and examination of anaesthetists and pain medicine specialists and for the standards of clinical practice in New Zealand and Australia. ANZCA's mission is to serve the community by fostering safety and high quality patient care in anaesthesia, perioperative medicine and pain medicine.

We note the Medical Council's proposal to increase the fee for Vocational Practice Assessments from \$8,876.07 to \$16,260.18 from 1 January 2019. We understand the rationale for the increase and the need to cover costs incurred. However, the increase will have a significant financial impact on individuals who need to undertake a Vocational Practice Assessment, and the Medical Council should consider whether this will have any workforce implications, such as difficulty recruiting international medical graduates in New Zealand. Health Workforce New Zealand has predicted that the medical workforce will need to rely on Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMG) for the foreseeable future.

You may be interested to note that the ANZCA SIMG workplace based assessment (WBA) fee is \$9,070.00 (GST incl) per WBA for 2018. We understand that ANZCA's WBA process is similar to the Medical Council's Vocational Practice Assessment for anaesthetists. The WBA includes two fellows for a one day assessment, and travel and accommodation for one night.

Due to the size of the proposed fee increase for Vocational Practice Assessments, and the rationale of avoiding cross-subsidisation, it would be useful for the Medical Council to explain what reductions there will be in other fees as a result.

We understand the fee increase for accreditation of training providers is referring to prevocational training, and therefore is not relevant to medical colleges at this time.

"To serve the community by fostering safety and high quality patient care in anaesthesia, perioperative medicine and pain medicine."

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this submission, please contact Mary Harvey (Senior Policy Adviser) in the first instance on 04 495 9780 or at mharvey@anzca.org.nz.

Yours sincerely



Dr Jennifer Woods
Chair, New Zealand National Committee