

What is the role of the Education Council and how is it different to the Teachers Council?

The Education Council came into being on July 1 2015 when the Teachers Council was disestablished under the Education Amendment Act. The Teachers Council had mainly regulatory and disciplinary functions. The Education Council was given a much broader statutory mandate with greatly increased functions and powers, and, as a result, our scope was substantially increased.

What are the services the Education Council provides?

Here's what we are doing to support the teaching profession:

- developing programmes to strengthen leadership throughout the education system
- creating of a Centre for Leadership Excellence
- reviewing and strengthening of initial teacher education
- leadership of professional development programmes
- commissioning research, share best practice
- strengthening disciplinary frameworks
- championing the profession - speaking up and out for teachers
- setting and maintaining professional standards and the code of professional responsibility
- rolling-out online certifications services so registration and renewing practising certificates can be more efficient and convenient
- creating appraisal, induction, and mentoring guidelines and frameworks.

What exactly are the new functions of the Education Council?

As stipulated in the Education Amendment Act, the functions of the Education Council are:

1. to provide leadership to teachers and direction for the education profession
2. to enhance the status of teachers and education leaders
3. to identify and disseminate best practice in teaching and leadership, and foster the education profession's continued development in light of research and evidence of changes in society and technology
4. to carry out the functions under Part 31 of the Act relating to teacher registration
5. to establish and maintain any criteria for teacher registration under Part 31 of the Act that the Education Council considers necessary or desirable
6. to establish and maintain standards for qualifications that lead to teacher registration
7. to conduct, in conjunction with quality assurance agencies, approvals of teacher education programmes
8. to establish and maintain
 - a. standards for ongoing practice
 - b. criteria for the issue of practising certificates of different kinds
9. to ensure that appraisals made by professional leaders for the issue and renewal of practising certificates achieve a reasonable and consistent standard, by auditing and moderating the appraisals made for at least 10% of the practising certificates issued or renewed in each year
10. to establish and maintain a code of conduct for teachers under section 387 of the Act
11. to monitor and enforce the requirements relating to mandatory reporting in this Part and Part 31 of the Act
12. to perform the disciplinary functions in this Part relating to teacher misconduct and reports of teacher convictions
13. to set the criteria for reporting serious misconduct and for reporting on competence issues
14. to perform the functions in this Part relating to teacher competence
15. to co-ordinate a system providing for the vetting by the Police of all teachers
16. to perform any other functions conferred on it by this Act or any other enactment.

What are we consulting on?

We are inviting feedback on:

- if a one-off registration fee should be introduced for the initial registration of a teacher
- increasing registration and practising certificate fees
- if the fees should be paid annually, or every three years. In either case, payment of fees and certification would need to be aligned
- if fees should be regularly inflation and labour market adjusted
- if the Limited Authority to Teach fee should be increased
- If overseas registration fees should be increased
- if late fees should be increased.

Why are we proposing to increase fees?

The Education Council's main source of income is the fees teachers pay for their practising certificate. This was also how the Teachers Council was funded.

These fees haven't increased since 2010, even though they were insufficient to fully fund the Teachers Council. The Education Council inherited an operating deficit when it replaced The Teachers Council in 2015 (see table 1 on page 6 of the consultation document). The Teachers Council had operating deficits for the final three years of its existence.

The current fees do not allow the Education Council to sustainably fund its statutory functions to the extent that it faces a projected deficit of \$9.595 million from 2019.

We highlighted this issue with the Government and, last year, it agreed to provide an additional \$21.34 million in funding, over three years, to give us time to develop a sustainable business model by June 2019. Without this money, the Education Council would have been insolvent by March 2018. The \$21.34 million in funding will run out on 30 June 2019.

Why are we proposing to increase late fees?

We want teachers to be teaching legally.

Why are we proposing to increase Limited Authority to Teach (LAT) fees?

The reason for granting a LAT is to provide employers with access to skills that are in short supply and enable those with specialist skills, but not a teaching qualification, to teach. If a decision is made to move to annual fees, then LATS should also be issued annually. The proposed fee takes into account the administration required in processing such applications.

How do we compare to other professional organisations?

Teachers pay fewer, lower fees than many similar professional regulatory organisations (see table 3 on page 18 of the consultation document). The Nurses Council, for instance, charges \$110 a year to obtain and renew practising certificates, social workers are charged \$368 each year, while occupational therapists must pay \$558 annually. Many other professional regulatory bodies adjust their fees annually.

Could fees be paid automatically from salaries?

We have investigated the possibility of fees being deducted from teachers' salaries. However as registration or certification being part paid would create uncertainty as to precisely when someone is actually registered or certified to teach, and what happens if full payment is not made, this option will not be available.

Will fees be reviewed?

We intend to keep fees under regular periodic review so we can fund sufficient capacity and resources to meet our statutory functions and make sure the level of the fee charged remains adequate, taking into account factors such as inflation reflected by changes in the consumer and labour price indexes. We will also review any increases or decreases in the costs of competency or conduct matters being dealt with by our committees and the New Zealand Teachers' Disciplinary Tribunal.

Will fees reduce in the future?

There is the possibility that if, for example, the costs of our competence or conduct functions reduce, the fees charged may subsequently reduce.

What are the timeframes for the proposal?

Any changes to fees are proposed to start from July 1 2019 after the last collective agreements expire.

Who will be affected?

We are proposing all teachers with practising certificates and Limited Authority to Teach working in early childhood, to primary and secondary schools in English or Māori medium settings, full or part time will pay the same fees. This is because registration and certification of teachers is about granting the right to teach in any setting, and maintaining standards for teaching.

What is the timeframe for consultation?

Please provide feedback to the Education Council on or before 5pm on Friday 5 May 2017.

You can do this in a number of ways:

- On the submission template in Appendix Four of the consultation document <https://educationcouncil.org.nz/feesconsultation/>
- By email to feesconsultation@educationcouncil.org.nz
- Through our online survey.