

14 October 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa

The New Zealand Registered Architects Board (NZRAB) protects the New Zealand public by ensuring architects meet expected professional standards. To continue to do this and to support architects and enhance professionalism, we're seeking your feedback on changes to our fees.

Since our last fees review five years ago, the cost of providing our services has gone up. Our operating costs have increased, and we need to invest in new digital systems and processes. We also expect numbers seeking registration to continue to rise. We need to increase fees to ensure that we are financially sustainable and fit for the future.

We are seeking to understand how the profession can meet these challenges in new and relevant ways. We have three funding options for you to consider. You can also add your own option and comments.

Please complete this [consultation survey](#) and give us your feedback by 11 November 2024.

## Process for setting the fees that we charge

The [Registered Architects Act 2005](#) (Sections 67-74) provides the legal mandate and describes the process for setting and altering the fees that we charge. We have no other income source so must set fees to ensure our organisation is financially sustainable.

[Read the current Registered Architects Rules 2006 Schedule 2 Charges for Services](#)

## Understanding the true costs of services

The Board has developed a financial model to better understand the costs of providing services. This model allocates all NZRAB costs to the services it provides. Using the model, we can test a variety of assumptions to understand the financial impact of changes in the numbers of registration applications, assessment costs, and Board costs.

This table summarises the estimated costs of our services for the 2025/2026 financial year.

Service	Estimated cost 2025/2026 financial year, including GST
ACRs full year	\$528.06
Initial registration 1 <sup>st</sup> attempt	\$6,518.28
Initial registration repeat attempt	\$6,518.28
Initial registration QEAP	\$2,506.86



Pathways 3 & 4	\$1,246.31
Pathways 5,6,7 & 8	\$2,477.57
Letter of good standing	\$249.26
Voluntary suspension	\$249.26

With our current fees, the cost of registering new architects is subsidised by the fees we receive from annual practising certificates. Cross subsidisation has been our current practice to reduce barriers to registration. This subsidisation was the agreed outcome of previous consultation with the profession.

Currently, around 70% of the cost of initial registration is covered from Annual Certificate of Registration (ACR) fees. We want your feedback on what, if any, level of cross subsidisation you support.

As well as adjusting fees for initial registration and ACR, we are proposing to increase fees for other services to ensure costs are recovered, and to introduce new fees for services that we provide but do not currently charge for.

## We've identified three options for the future

We would like your feedback on these three options. You can also suggest other options.

### Option 1 — remove cross-subsidy for services (full cost recovery)

This option is what full cost recovery would look like. It means charging the actual costs for all services on a full cost-recovery basis. With this option, our concern is that fewer applicants may apply for initial registration as cost could be a barrier.

Fees for ACR would decrease, but all other fees would increase. This table shows proposed fees for this option.

#### Option 1 — no cross subsidisation

Service	Existing fee, including GST	Proposed fee, including GST
ACRs full year	\$724.50	\$530
Initial registration 1 <sup>st</sup> attempt	\$1,200.60	\$6,520
Initial registration repeat attempt	\$600.30	\$6,520
Initial registration QEAP	\$517.50	\$2,500
Pathways 3 & 4	\$632.50	\$1,250
Pathways 5,6,7 & 8	-	\$2,480
Letter of good standing	-	\$250
Voluntary suspension	-	\$250

### Option 2 — keep the same level of cross-subsidy for initial registration

Option 2 is what we do now. The Board would continue to subsidise the initial registration fee at the current rate using funds from ACR fees. More applicants would likely apply as the cost is significantly reduced. Registered architects would subsidise this cost.

We would still need to increase fees for all services. This table shows proposed fees for this option.

#### Option 2 — similar to current cross subsidisation

Service	Existing fee, including GST	Proposed fee, including GST
ACRs full year	\$724.50	\$950
Initial registration 1 <sup>st</sup> attempt	\$1,200.60	\$1,750
Initial registration repeat attempt	\$600.30	\$875
Initial registration QEAP	\$517.50	\$2,500
Pathways 3 & 4	\$632.50	\$1,250
Pathways 5,6,7 & 8	-	\$2,480
Letter of good standing	-	\$250
Voluntary suspension	-	\$250

### Option 3 — reduce the level of cross-subsidy for initial registration

This option keeps some subsidisation for initial registration but reduces the level. With this option, applicants should continue to apply, and the level of subsidisation would reduce for registered architects.

We would still need to increase fees for all services. This table shows proposed fees for this option.

#### Option 3 — less than current cross subsidisation

Service	Existing fee, including GST	Proposed fee, including GST
ACRs full year	\$724.50	\$850
Initial registration 1 <sup>st</sup> attempt	\$1,200.60	\$3,150
Initial registration repeat attempt	\$600.30	\$1,575
Initial registration QEAP	\$517.50	\$2,500
Pathways 3 & 4	\$632.50	\$1,250
Pathways 5,6,7 & 8	-	\$2,480
Letter of good standing	-	\$250
Voluntary suspension	-	\$250

You can recommend a different option

If you have other suggestions for how the fees for our services are structured, please let us know. You can add your comments in the [consultation survey](#).

## How we structure our fees

The current NZRAB practice is to set fees that:

- subsidise initial registration to encourage graduates (and others) to become registered
- subsidise repeat attempts at registration
- subsidise initial registration by using the ongoing revenue ACRs provide over the professional life of the architect
- include the costs of competency reviews and continuing professional development in the ACR fee.

## Your feedback will help sustain our profession

Our [consultation survey](#) is open for 20 days from Monday 14 October to Monday 11 November 2024. After this period, we'll review your feedback, make decisions, and communicate the outcome with you.

Thank you in advance for your feedback. We take our responsibilities seriously and value your views. Together, we can make pragmatic, sustainable decisions for the future of our profession.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith Taylor', written in a cursive style.

Judith Taylor  
Acting Chief Executive