



Submission

On the Proposed Changes to
Teaching Council Fees and
Levy 2025-2028

About PPTA Te Wehengarua

PPTA Te Wehengarua represents the majority of teachers engaged in secondary education in New Zealand, including secondary teachers, principals, and manual and technology teachers.

Under our constitution, all PPTA Te Wehengarua activity is guided by the following objectives:

- to advance the cause of education generally and of all phases of secondary and technical education in particular;
- to uphold and maintain the just claims of its members individually and collectively; and
- to affirm and advance Te Tiriti O Waitangi.

This submission is from the PPTA Te Wehengarua Executive and is on behalf of all of our members.

Practising certificate fee increases

PPTA Te Wehengarua accepts that the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand is required to set fees and levy (currently for a 3-year period), which must be based on actual and reasonable costs.

PPTA Te Wehengarua acknowledges the Teaching Council has inflationary pressures and that it has aimed to keep the practising certificate fee increase in line with inflation (approximately equivalent to a 3% increase per year over 3 years, resulting in a total increase of 8.0%)

PPTA Te Wehengarua also acknowledges that the Teaching Council must meet its statutory obligations to the profession, cover increased costs due to inflation, respond to changes in the volume and costs of services provided since 2022 and that it wishes to maintain effectiveness.

PPTA Te Wehengarua strongly believes that the Teaching Council needs to stick to its core business of registering and de-registering teachers and investigating misconduct and ensuring that fee increases are kept to a minimum for these functions only.

PPTA Te Wehengarua has strong membership feedback that the Teaching Council should not increase its fees at all.

PPTA Te Wehengarua accepts that there are increased costs in moving from provisional to full certification and that this is reflected in the proposal for the increased cost.

PPTA member feedback is that the registration fee is already expensive, particularly for part-time, and newer teachers, still with student loans. These members do not want to see a fee increase.

Limited Authority to Teach (LAT) (11.2% increase)

PPTA Te Wehengarua agrees with the Teaching Council proposal to increase the fee and levy for a three-year LAT and that it should reflect the forecast cost of LAT applications.

PPTA Te Wehengarua believes that all students deserve to have a fully qualified teacher in front of them and does not support the rise in LATs.

PPTA Te Wehengarua firmly believes that the government should focus on improving pay and conditions to attract people to the profession.

PPTA Te Wehengarua agrees that a user-pays approach for specific services is appropriate.

Overseas teacher applications (50% Increase)

The PPTA Te Wehengarua considers that given the Government has deliberately chosen to hire overseas teachers to address teacher shortages, rather than ensuring an adequate supply of New Zealand teachers, it should continue the funding of staff to process overseas applications for as long as it takes.

PPTA Te Wehengarua agrees that a user-pays approach for specific services is appropriate.

Principal feedback is that the fee increase could be a disincentive for overseas teachers, and this is a concern given they are a significant source of recruitment at the moment.

Panel review fee (\$540 user-pays new charge)

PPTA Te Wehengarua agrees with the Teaching Council proposal to introduce a Panel review fee of \$540 fee and agrees that only those who use this service pay for it.

PPTA submitted to this effect, when the Teaching Council sought feedback in 2024, stating that the Teaching Council should charge the full cost of a review, and no additional charge should be made to teachers through the levy.

PPTA Te Wehengarua considers that the full cost of the review should be met by the appellant (whether the teacher or complainant). We also suggested that the Tribunal should be making cost orders against an unsuccessful party, or the CAC were the appeal successful. Such an approach would serve to mitigate vexatious and malicious appeals and would support a careful and consideration approach being taken by the CAC in the first instance.

Further concerns with the proposed fee and levy changes

PPTA Te Wehengarua consistently receives member feedback that teachers do not believe that Teaching Council consultation is 'real' and do not feel their voice is heard, rather they consider that the consultation is already decided, and this is a 'checkbox' exercise.

PPTA Te Wehengarua accepts that the definition of consultation is confusing, and that there will be changes made based on feedback the Teaching Council receives; however, suggests that the Teaching Council need to find a way to ensure this message is received.

Teachers are very clear that they wish for a 'no frills' Teaching Council with a narrow focus on registering and managing the registration of teachers.

Further, secondary teachers remain convinced that the government should pay for teacher registrations.

Teachers would like to have a say on the functions of the Teaching Council.