

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED APPLICATION FEES FOR THE SPECIALIST SCOPE OF PRACTICE: PHYSIOTHERAPY SPECIALIST

Issued on: 25 August 2019

Consultation closes: 6 October 2019

1

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this consultation is to:

- Consult on changes to the application fees the Physiotherapy Board (the Board) proposes for the Specialist Scope of Practice: Physiotherapy Specialist; and
- Invite comment on the proposed fees.

The Board continually reviews its operations to provide the best value for money and minimise costs where possible, while also efficiently and effectively performing its

functions as prescribed under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act).

The Board abides by the Office of the Auditor-General's good practice guidelines *Charging fees for public sector goods and services*, as well as Treasury's guidelines.

We are consulting on the following fee decreases within the Specialist Scope of Practice: Physiotherapy Specialist application process:

1. Portfolio Assessment; and
2. Panel Review.

2

ASSESSMENT CHANGE AND PROPOSED FEE CHANGES

In March/April 2019, the Board conducted a survey to identify the number and 'type' of physiotherapists who are potentially interested in becoming a Physiotherapy Specialist. It also looked to identify specific obstacles that could deter potential candidates from applying for this scope of practice.

This survey was requested by the Board due to the low number of successful physiotherapy specialist applicants and the absence of any applicants for this scope of practice.

The results of the survey show that although there were 872 physiotherapists who indicated they were interested in becoming a Physiotherapy Specialist, only three had applied. This was for a number of reasons:

- 69% indicated they had 'yet to look into what is required'
- 13% indicated they were considering applying; and
- 3% were gathering evidence toward the application.

In terms of the largest barrier to applying:

- 38% stated they did not yet have the required level of academic qualifications or experience
- 29% stated the cost
- 22% did not see value in the role

- 16% the clinical assessment; and
- 15% the application process.

The Board resolved to change the assessment process to the following:

A two-staged assessment process (portfolio and panel):

- Stage 1: Portfolio Assessment (two assessors) and
- Stage 2: Panel Review (three assessors). Electronic meeting via Zoom. There would be no face to face meetings held.

The main changes to the assessment process are:

- Portfolio Assessment – reducing the number of assessors on the panel from three to two;
- Practical Clinical Assessment / Examination – the removal of the assessment/examination stage; and
- Panel Review – an electronic meeting instead of face-to-face.

The Board have conducted a cost recovery calculation for the Specialist Scope of Practice application under the proposed two-staged assessment process (all electronic).

Current Fees (including GST):	
Portfolio Assessment	\$1,928.10
Panel Review	\$3,413.00

Proposed Fees (including GST):	
Portfolio Assessment	\$1,430.00
Panel Review	\$1,700.00

The proposed fee is a reduction of:

\$498.10 for the Portfolio Assessment,
and

\$1,713.00 for the Panel Review

Total \$2,211.10 (including GST)

The proposed fees include:

- only electronic meetings via Zoom (or another appropriate electronic avenue);

- no allowances for face-to-face meetings.

The estimated cost of one face-to-face meeting is an additional \$3,000-\$3,500 including travel, travel time, catering and (occasionally) accommodation.

The main factors behind the reduction in cost are:

- Portfolio Assessment – reducing the number of assessors on the panel from three to two; and
- Panel Review – an electronic meeting instead of face-to-face.

The questions the Board is asking in this consultation are:

1. Do you agree with the proposed Portfolio Assessment fee?
2. Do you agree with the proposed Panel Review fee?

3

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

HOW TO MAKE A SUBMISSION

Please provide your response using the online submission form which can be accessed by clicking the link [here](#) or through the Board's website www.physioboard.org.nz under the 'resources' section.

Alternatively, you can email your response to physio@physioboard.org.nz, or send your written submission to:

Chief Executive
Physiotherapy Board
PO Box 10734
Wellington 6143

The closing date for submissions is 6 October 2019.

The Board will not consider responses received after the stated deadline.

All submissions are subject to being published confidentially. Please make a note in your written submission if you do not wish your response to be published.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Once the consultation period is complete, all submissions made on the proposed fees will be considered by the Board. The Board will keep the profession and other interested parties informed on the outcome.