

Advisory issued to architects

Kia ora Colleagues

The timing of the increase in the Annual Certificate of Registration (ACR) fee could not have come at a worse time, given the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board is aware of the uncertainty in the profession that has arisen from this and that many of you will be struggling with what to do in this unfamiliar world.

Several of you have asked about the fee increase. The new fee was passed into law just before the COVID-19 situation and the Board is unable to get this altered quickly. The reasons that the Board sought a fee increase, through a process that started in mid 2019, was that the last ACR fee increase was some years ago and NZRAB needed to re-calibrate the fee to accommodate inflation and deal with the costs of an increasing number of expensive disciplinary hearings. The Board is looking at various ways to make its core business more efficient, including using virtual meeting video services for professional conversations, committee and Board meetings.

The Board is actively monitoring the state of the profession and advising the Minister of Building and Construction.

You can expect a first email about the ACR invoice in the next few days.

The Board has thought long and hard about what it can do legally to help architects and it has identified a precedent from the support given to Canterbury architects following the Canterbury earthquake sequence. All architects, including those in Voluntary Suspension, will receive a 200 CPD point reduction from their five year targets. This will hopefully relieve some pressure off of you over the next few months. The administrative process to effect this will take a little time as secretariat staff are working from home.

As a Board we extend our aroha to you all during these uncertain times.

Ngā mihi

Gina Jones
Board Chair

9 April 2020