



Veterinary Council Update September 2014

1. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) – First (pilot) audits

We will be phoning some of you this week to let you know that you've been selected to have your CPD records audited. We'll be following up this call with an emailed letter and detailed instructions. You'll have four weeks to get your records and verification evidence to us.

Of the 2.5% of practising veterinarians selected for audit:

- 32 have been randomly selected
- 32 have been randomly selected from a targeted pool made up of those with zero or minimum CPD declared in the previous 3 years and/or those who have had upskilling recommendations made following a recent complaint or concern notification
- 5 are the veterinary members of Council.

This is a pilot audit and we won't be enforcing the CPD requirements in a rigid manner. In the event of concerns, the emphasis in the first instance will be rehabilitative and supportive.

2. Are your CPD records up to date?

When you apply for your next practising certificate in early 2015 you will be required to record the number of CPD points you have accumulated in the 3.25 year period to 30 June 2014. A "nil" CPD return is no longer acceptable. The minimum requirement is 60 relevant and verifiable CPD points with a minimum of 15 points in the Collegial Learning and Continuing Veterinary Education areas.

You must keep sufficient and credible records of your CPD activities for seven years. If you haven't been maintaining records of the CPD you've been engaged in, you need to start gathering this information together now. Don't leave it to the last minute.

You can use the [templates](#) on our website or the systems offered by NZVA or your employer. But this is not a requirement. Your record can be as simple as an exercise book in which your reflection on self-directed and collegial activities can also be recorded. Details of conferences and seminars, online course outlines and copies of receipts can be pasted in or kept in a separate file. Set regular calendar or phone alerts to remind you to record your CPD as it happens.

Click [here](#) for further information:

<http://www.vetcouncil.org.nz/documentation/CPDInformationforVets.pdf>

3. Minimum Practising Standards Declarations – delayed until 2016

Thank you to those who responded to our request for comments on the Minimum Practising Standards (MPS) Checklists.

In light of the constructive feedback Council has decided to delay implementing MPS declarations for the issue of an annual practising certificate until 2016. We will use this time to:

- make adjustments to the checklists to reflect the comments received
- work with those in non clinical practice to develop more inclusive standards
- convey the new provisions to the profession via roadshows and other communication initiatives in 2015.

Click [here](http://www.vetcouncil.org.nz/minPractStandards.php) for further information: <http://www.vetcouncil.org.nz/minPractStandards.php>

4. Proposed 5% increase to practising certificate fees in 2015

VCNZ's statutory activities are funded by the practising certificate and registration application fees paid by veterinarians. We don't receive any funding from the taxpayer and we must use the fee income received to fund all of the activities the Veterinarians Act requires us to deliver.

We have previously signaled that VCNZ revenue is not sufficient to fund its operations, in particular major complaints and disciplinary costs. In 2013 the costs of one disciplinary case exceeded \$127,000. Hefty disciplinary costs will recur in 2014 because of a further 3 disciplinary cases, one very protracted and still ongoing. If we do not have sufficient funds to bring these cases we fail in our duty to protect the public interest and risk damaging the public's trust and confidence in the profession.

Our position continues to be that small incremental increases to the APC fee are preferable to major hikes. Having reviewed the financial position and projections, VCNZ has confirmed the need for another small APC fee increase to ensure that a minimum acceptable reserve level is retained.

We are therefore proposing to increase the APC fee for 2015 by 5% to \$510. A discounted fee (of \$485) will apply for early payment during the bulk APC renewal round in the New Year.

This fee compares favourably with the APC fees of other professions with similar numbers, such as dentists with an APC fee of \$860 and occupational therapists who pay \$558.

Your views are welcome. Please send any comments - preferably by email to - margriet.philipsen@vetcouncil.org.nz by **20 October**.