

Consistency Accountability Statement

In accordance with the Regulatory Standards Act 2025

Responsible agency: New Zealand Psychologists Board.

Maker: New Zealand Psychologists Board.

Secondary legislation: Psychologists (Disciplinary Levy) Notice September 2026, made under sections 130 to 133 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

Description: The secondary legislation sets an additional disciplinary levy of \$247.83, exclusive of goods and services tax, for the practising year beginning on 1 April 2026 and ending on 31 March 2027. The levy is \$285.00 including goods and services tax. It is payable by every psychologist who applies for, or holds, an annual practising certificate for the relevant practising year, other than a psychologist registered in the Intern Psychologist scope of practice. The notice comes into force 28 days after publication in the New Zealand Gazette.

Assessment: The Board has assessed the secondary legislation and the process for developing it against the principles of responsible regulation in section 9 of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025. On the information currently available, the Board considers that the secondary legislation is consistent with those principles.

The levy has a lawful purpose connected to the Board's disciplinary and related statutory functions under the HPCA Act. It is targeted to psychologists who apply for, or hold, an annual practising certificate for the relevant practising year, excludes Intern Psychologists, and is to be applied solely for disciplinary and related statutory functions, including competence, conduct, fitness to practise, tribunal-related costs, and associated costs. The levy is additional to, and not in substitution for, the Psychologists (Disciplinary Levy) Notice 2026.

Summary of Underpinning Analysis

Problem definition: The Board is experiencing material and sustained disciplinary expenditure pressures, particularly HPDT and PCC-related costs. The Board's cash position is tight and the current forecast indicates a full-year deficit, even before taking account of the proposed one-off levy.

Objective: The objective of the additional levy is to meet the costs of the Board's disciplinary and related statutory functions under the HPCA Act, where those costs have exceeded the amount provided for by the disciplinary levy set at the start of the practising year.

Options considered: The Board considered whether an additional one-off levy was required, the amount of the levy, who should be required to pay it, and whether interns should be included. The Board resolved that the levy should apply to psychologists who apply for, or hold, an annual practising certificate for the relevant practising year, and should exclude psychologists registered in the Intern Psychologist scope of practice.

Consultation: Section 131 of the HPCA Act does not require consultation before imposing a disciplinary levy, however in accordance with s(9)(i) & (j) the Board consulted with the profession for four weeks. Forty-six submissions were received, representing approximately 7.6% of registrants. Feedback was mixed, with some practitioners understanding the need for the levy and others opposed.

Decision: On 18 September 2026, the Board resolved to impose a one-off additional disciplinary levy on APC holders, excluding interns, for the amount of \$247.83 plus GST. The Psychologists (Disciplinary Levy) Notice September 2026 was made at Wellington on 23 September 2026.

Implementation and communication: The levy is due 10 working days after the notice comes into effect which is 28 days after the gazette notice is published. It applies to psychologists who hold an annual practising certificate when the notice comes into force, and for psychologists who apply for the issue or renewal of an annual practising certificate on or after the gazette notice comes into effect. The notice explains that the levy is non-refundable, including where an annual practising certificate application is declined or withdrawn. The profession was notified of the proposed additional levy on 25 September 2026. The Board's communication to the profession set out the historical context, the disciplinary cost pressures, and that the levy is to meet disciplinary and related statutory costs rather than to build a general reserve.

Status and relationship with existing levy: The notice is a stand-alone principal notice and is secondary legislation under the Legislation Act 2019. It does not affect the disciplinary levy already set for the practising year by the Psychologists (Disciplinary Levy) Notice 2026, which remains in force.

Regulatory Analysis Summary position

A Regulatory Analysis Summary is not considered required because the proposed secondary legislation is not being taken to Cabinet and no separate Cabinet policy decision is being sought. This position is retained on file as the Board's record of why a RAS has not been prepared.

Title	Psychologists (Disciplinary Levy) Notice September 2026
Principal or amendment	Principal
Consolidated version	No
Empowering Act and provisions	Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, sections 130 to 133
Replacement empowering Act and provisions	Not applicable
Maker name	New Zealand Psychologists Board
Administering agency	New Zealand Psychologists Board
Date made	23 September 2026
Publication date	24 September 2026
Notification date	23 September 2026
Commencement date	28 days after publication in the New Zealand Gazette
End date (when applicable)	Not applicable
Consolidation as at date	Not applicable
Related instruments	Psychologists (Disciplinary Levy) Notice 2026