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*Media release*

## **Pharmacy Council freezes Annual Practising Certificate fee and provides rebate from underspend**

The Pharmacy Council will keep its Annual Practising Certificate fees at the same level for the next financial year as it works to support pharmacists facing pandemic pressures.

In addition, the Pharmacy Council has decided to provide a rebate to pharmacists for the underspent amount of the 2019/20 APC fee. This equates to about 10 percent of the fee each pharmacist paid, or \$60 plus GST per eligible pharmacist.

Chief Executive Michael Pead says the Pharmacy Council is very conscious of the enormous workload pressure pharmacists have faced through COVID-19, both as essential workers and in the front line of the pandemic response.

“The Pharmacy Council recognises the commitment of pharmacists to maintaining safe and effective practice while continuing to provide care for patients. Pharmacists are the only health professionals the public can seek help from without making an appointment.”

As part of its efforts to support pharmacists, the Pharmacy Council has made the decision to keep the Annual Practising Certificate fee at the same level that was set for 2020/21.

The Pharmacy Council will absorb any extra costs it incurs as part of its normal operations. It will do this through costs savings and as a result of some work not being able to proceed as quickly as desired due to the impact of the pandemic.

Michael Pead says the decision to provide a rebate is based on Council’s underspend of the 2019/20 APC fee as a result of the impact of the pandemic on some of Council’s planned projects, with some regulatory work planned for the financial year not being able to proceed in this financial year. Council is confident that its future fee funding will support this work so felt it was appropriate to return the unspent 2019/20 funds to pharmacists’ pockets.

The Pharmacy Council is in the process of finalising the process for payment of the rebate and expects eligible pharmacists to have received the rebate by the end of November.

[ends]