

# Education Fees Review and Consultation 2025: Sample scenarios

He ara pūkenga, he ara tauwhiro, hei whakamana mātā waka  
*The many pathways of knowledge, the many pathways of  
social work, upholding the dignity of all*



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# Prescription and Monitoring

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- More flexibility means that predictions on possible costs for TEOs are just that – predictions. Note that the hypothetical scenarios provided show annual monitoring fees being paid in 2026; however, in practice this will not be the case as annual monitoring will begin in 2027.
- SWRB monitoring largely depends on the outcomes of previous monitoring and on issues reported to or identified by the SWRB.
- Few problems/issues with a programme = lower risk = potentially less monitoring and cost.
- TEOs can ‘shape their own destiny’ – those highly compliant with the Education Standards and providing a well-recognised, highly commended programme may incur lower fees due to shorter prescription visits requiring fewer panelists.
- The SWRB wants to be able to interact with programmes, identify and promote excellent practice, and recognise and respond to issues or concerns.
- The change of language indicates a change in approach – from traditional regulator to a more responsive modern regulator.

## First, we assess risk as identified by monitoring visits:

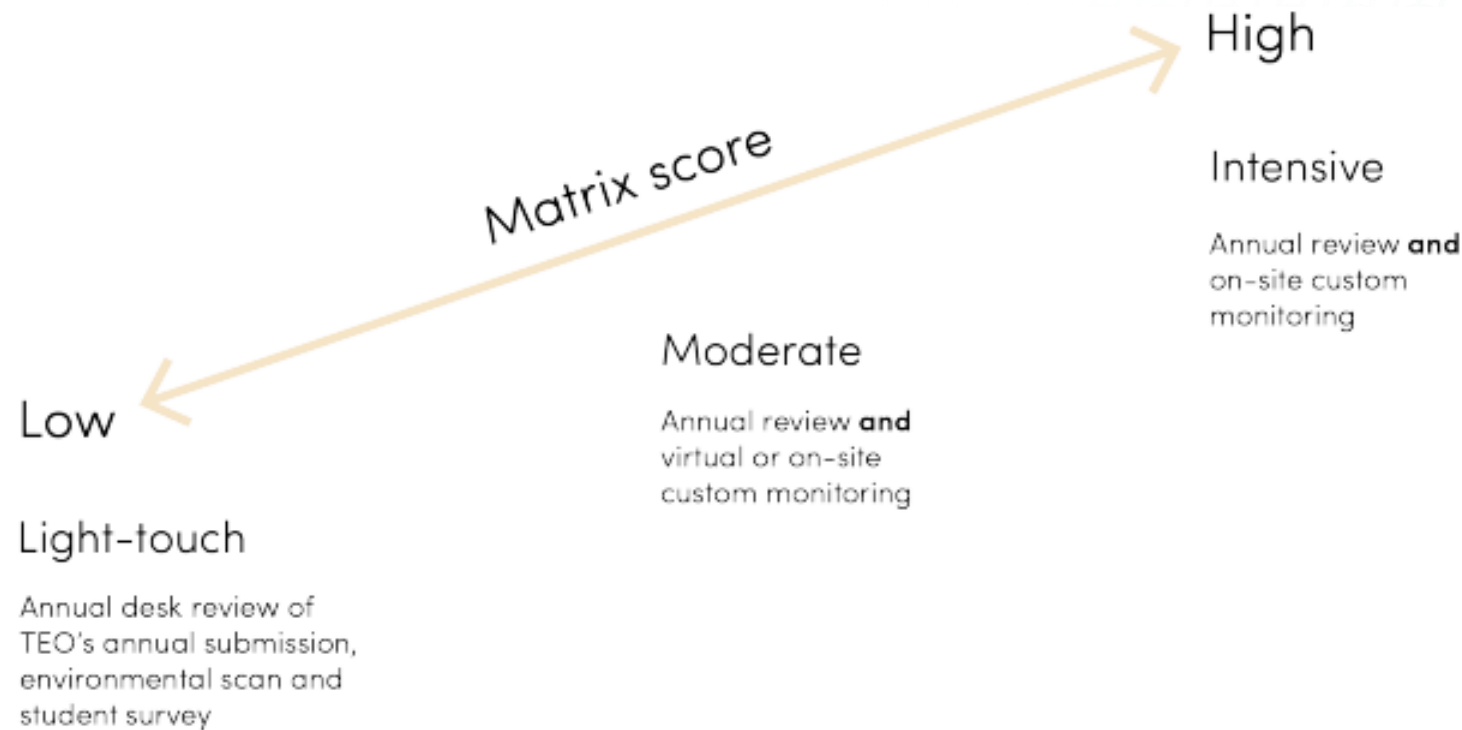
Likelihood of Standard being met	Likely	1 (low)	2 (low)	3 (moderate)
	Possible	2 (low)	4 (moderate)	6 (high)
	Unlikely	3 (moderate)	6 (high)	9 (high)
		Low Isolated and/or not serious	Moderate	High Serious and/or challenging to remediate
Impact if Standard is not met				

## With a matrix score, we can identify the Prescription outcome:

Matrix score	Prescription outcome
1 or 2 (low risk)	Prescribed with commendation
3 or 4 (moderate risk)	Prescribed
6 (high risk)	Prescribed with requirements
9 (severe risk)	May be prescribed with requirements (where there is a reasonable expectation that Standards can be met within a specified time without posing unacceptable risk) OR May be declined or revoked



## We can then identify the proportionate monitoring approach:



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# Indications of possible cost: fixed and variable

The proposal includes **annual fixed fees** for TEOs which will apply each year:

- **Annual programme support fee** = \$9,000. This fee is to be charged per social work programme.
- **Annual monitoring fee** = \$3,720. Each TEO will provide an annual submission of collated information drawn from existing data and documentation which will be reviewed by the SWRB. **Exception:** This submission will not occur nor will this fee be invoiced for in a year where a prescription confirmation occurs. This fee is to be charged per social work programme.

The proposal includes **variable costs** for TEOs which may apply in a given year:

- **New qualification prescription:** range from \$27,015 to \$40,655
- **Prescription confirmation:** range from \$27,015 to \$40,655
- **Custom monitoring:** \$124ph

These are indicative costs for a two-day visit with a minimum panel membership of 3 and maximum of 6

**NB: All proposed fees are GST exclusive**

## Scenario A: TEO seeking a new qualification prescription

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- This scenario demonstrates the investment required for new programme development under the proposed structure.
- While initial costs are substantial, they represent a comprehensive assessment that provides confidence in programme quality from the outset.
- The transition to regular monitoring creates predictability for budget planning, and the flat annual support fee means all providers receive the same level of ongoing support regardless of their size.
- Success in meeting standards during the initial prescription period would position a TEO for minimum prescription confirmation fees in subsequent cycles.

## Scenario A: TEO applies for new qualification prescription

- Qualification to be delivered at a **single site**
- New qualification prescription visit requires **four panelists** over **three days**
- Prescription outcome – prescribed with **matrix score 4**
- Onsite custom monitoring involves **two panelists for four hours** (at least one custom monitoring event will be standard in the first delivery cycle for a new qualification)
- When both custom and annual monitoring show continued compliance with the Education Standards, no additional custom monitoring is required

Proposed fee (CPI not included)	2026	2027	2028	2029
New qualification prescription fee	\$33,703*	–	–	–
Annual monitoring fee	–	\$3,720	\$3,720	\$3,720
Annual programme support fee	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
Custom monitoring fee	–	\$992*	–	–
<b>Total per annum</b>	<b>\$42,703</b>	<b>\$13,712</b>	<b>\$12,720</b>	<b>\$12,720</b>

\*plus travel & related expenses

Fees model – Total over 4 years			
Current fees model	Current – if CPI adjusted	Proposed fees model	Proposed – if CPI adjusted
\$81,224	\$98,868	\$81,855	\$83,421

**NB: All proposed fees are GST exclusive**



## Scenario B: TEO delivering single qualification at single site

- Small private provider graduating 12 students per year.
- TEO is due a prescription confirmation visit from the SWRB.
- The institution had specific requirements around field placement to address from their last review that may trigger additional monitoring under the new framework.
- There are increased costs:
  - a) the move to a flat annual support fee that increases their previous annual cost from \$6,000 to \$9,000; and
  - b) the likelihood of incurring custom monitoring fees due to their compliance history.
- However, this creates a clear incentive for programme improvement, as addressing compliance issues would minimise custom monitoring costs and potentially qualify them for minimum rather than maximum prescription confirmation fees in subsequent cycles.

**NB: All proposed fees are GST exclusive**

## Scenario B: TEO delivering single qualification at single site

- Prescription confirmation visit **three-person** panel, **two-day** visit
- Prescription confirmation outcome – prescribed with requirements = **matrix score 6**
- Due to nature of the requirements, annual custom monitoring visits are scheduled until next prescription confirmation year (would be Year 5)
- Custom monitoring visit requires **one panelist** for **five hours**
- First scheduled custom monitoring visit findings **show significant progress** against requirements
- Any remaining custom **monitoring events can now be virtual**. Virtual monitoring in year 3 involves **one panelist** for **three hours**
- Second custom monitoring event **finds that TEO has achieved all requirements** and is now fully compliant with SWRB Education Standards
- No further custom monitoring required

**NB: All proposed fees are GST exclusive**

Proposed fee (CPI not included)	2026	2027	2028	2029
Prescription confirmation fee	\$27,015*	–	–	–
Annual monitoring fee	–	\$3,720	\$3,720	\$3,720
Annual programme support fee	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
Custom monitoring fee	–	\$620*	\$372**	–
<b>Total per annum</b>	<b>\$36,015</b>	<b>\$13,730</b>	<b>\$12,720</b>	<b>\$12,720</b>

\*plus travel & related expenses \*\* no travel & related expenses for virtual monitoring

Fees model – Total over 4 years			
Current fees model	Current – if CPI adjusted	Proposed fees model	Proposed – if CPI adjusted
\$66,094	\$79,380	\$75,167	\$76,734

## Scenario C: Large TEO with Multiple Qualifications

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- TEO who operates both Bachelors and Masters programmes in social work.
- While generally compliant with standards, they occasionally face minor issues that require follow-up, reflecting the complexity of managing multiple programmes across different qualification levels.
- Each programme would pay **separate annual support fees** and **separate annual monitoring fees** reflecting that regulatory support requirements differ between Bachelor's and Master's level qualifications. Their generally good compliance record positions them for mid-range prescription confirmation fees rather than maximum rates.
- This scenario highlights how institutions with multiple programmes continue to face separate regulatory costs for each qualification, which accurately reflects the individual assessment requirements for different programme types.
- The new structure provides greater transparency about the specific costs associated with each programme and creates opportunities for efficiency through coordinated regulatory activities.

## Scenario C: Large TEO with Multiple Qualifications

- TEO delivers Bachelor's, Honours and Master's. (Bachelor's and Honours will be regarded as a single qualification for the purpose of prescription and monitoring)
- Qualifications are delivered at a **single site**.
- TEO has not been monitored for four years so will require a prescription confirmation visit.
- Both qualifications will be assessed in a **single visit by three panelists over three days**.
- Prescription outcome for both qualifications = prescribed with **matrix score 3**
- No custom monitoring is scheduled
- Annual support fee and annual monitoring fee charged for each programme

**NB: All proposed fees are GST exclusive**

Proposed fee (CPI not included)	2026	2027	2028	2029
Prescription confirmation fee		\$30,293*	–	–
Annual monitoring fees	\$7,440	–	\$7,440	\$7,440
Annual TEO programme support fees	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
Custom monitoring fee	–	–	–	–
<b>Total per annum</b>	<b>\$25,440</b>	<b>\$48,293</b>	<b>\$25,440</b>	<b>\$25,440</b>

\*plus travel & related expenses

Fees model – Total over 4 years			
Current fees model	Current – if CPI adjusted	Proposed fees model	Proposed – if CPI adjusted
\$139,836	\$153,667	\$124,613	\$128,164



## Scenario D: Well performing medium sized TEO delivering single qualification across 2 sites

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- The TEO has a strong track record of consistently meeting standards with no significant compliance issues.
- Their strong compliance record qualifies them for minimum prescription confirmation fees and eliminates the risk of costly custom monitoring.
- The new structure also provides greater predictability, as the likelihood of incurring additional custom monitoring costs is minimal given their track record.
- This scenario demonstrates how well-performing institutions benefit under the proposed structure through both reduced costs and increased predictability, rewarding excellence in programme management and regulatory compliance.

## Scenario D: TEO delivering single qualification across 2 sites

- TEO has had a **recent re-recognition** visit from the SWRB **two years ago**, monitored against the previous Programme Recognition Standards.
- TEO received several commendations, one recommendation and no requirements: would have been prescribed **with matrix score 2 under the new model = low risk**.
- No negative indicators arose from annual monitoring in Years 1 & 2, so **no custom monitoring needed**.
- TEO due for prescription confirmation in Year 3. Because all indicators are positive, the visit is **three panelists for one day** only. As a result the fee is lower than the proposed two-day range.
- Staff from the second site are consulted with online during the day rather than an additional visit.
- This is a medium sized TEO graduating at least 20 students per annum.
- TEO is highly compliant and running an excellent programme at both sites, therefore lighter touch monitoring is possible.

**NB: All proposed fees are GST exclusive**

Proposed fee (CPI not included)	2026	2027	2028	2029
Prescription confirmation fee	–	–	\$23,738*	–
Annual monitoring fee	\$3,720	\$3,720	–	\$3,720
Annual programme support fee	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
Custom monitoring fee	–	–	–	–
<b>Total per annum</b>	<b>\$12,720</b>	<b>\$12,720</b>	<b>\$32,738</b>	<b>\$12,720</b>

\*plus travel & related expenses

Fees model – Total over 4 years			
Current fees model	Current – if CPI adjusted	Proposed fees model	Proposed – if CPI adjusted
\$73,050	\$88,877	\$70,898	\$84,412

# What These Scenarios Reveal: Key Implications

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- Size impacts fees differently under the new structure, with small providers facing higher annual support fees while all providers gain more predictable activity-based costs.
- The new framework creates clear performance incentives, where well-performing programmes benefit from lower total costs while those requiring additional monitoring pay more for the extra regulatory attention they receive.
- There is increased transparency in connecting specific regulatory activities with their associated costs, moving away from the previous bundled approach.
- This creates greater planning certainty, as institutions can better predict their regulatory costs based on their performance and compliance history.
- The new structure incentivises quality and compliance while illustrating the principle that those requiring additional regulatory attention should bear the associated costs.

**Pātai?**

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