

Reduction in Subscription Fees Policy and Procedure

Purpose and scope

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a consistent approach to the consideration and granting of requests made by College Fellows, Associates (Procedural) and Certificants for reduced annual subscription fees. Only one fee reduction can be applied to an Annual Subscription fee.

This policy outlines the processes relating to requests for a reduction in annual subscriptions fees on the basis of overseas volunteer work, recognition as a Semi-Retired Fellow, participation by overseas Fellows in a RANZCOG-approved CPD program or Financial Hardship. Requests for reduction on the basis of Parental Leave or Extended Leave should be considered against the Parental Leave and Extended Leave Fee Reduction Policy and Procedure.

1. Policy and Procedure

1.1 Overseas Volunteer Work

Members who wish to apply for a reduction must complete the [Financial Hardship and Overseas Volunteer Reduced Subscription application](#) and submit along with any supporting documentation including length of appointment and evidence of position and wage being paid at the time.

The minimum duration of overseas volunteer work that will be considered is six (6) months. If the period is more than 12 months, a new application must be made. For any reduction to apply, the total annual income earned must be less than AUD\$80,000/NZD\$86,000 per annum.

Total Annual Income	Subscription Rate Payable
Less than AUD\$40,000 or NZD\$43,000	25%
Between AUD\$40,000 and AUD\$80,000 or Between NZD\$43,000 and NZD\$86,000	50%

Any reductions apply to upcoming subscriptions only. A proportion of previous subscriptions will not be repaid. A new application must be made annually and for each new posting undertaken.

1.2 Semi-Retired Fellows

In recognition of the skills and knowledge that senior Fellows possess and to encourage continued involvement in medical education, surgical assisting, and other relevant areas through a reduced scope of practice, the College has introduced a membership category of Semi-Retired Fellow.

This category of membership offers a reduced annual subscription for Fellows approaching the end of their career. Such Fellows will need to be financial members of RANZCOG. For any reduction to apply, total annual income must be under AUD\$100,000/NZD\$107,000 (or equivalent). The reduction will be applied as follows:

Total Annual Income	Subscription Rate Payable
Less than AUD\$80,000 or NZD\$86,000	40%
Between AUD\$80,000 and AUD\$100,000 or NZD\$86,000 and NZD\$107,000	75%

For the purposes of determining eligibility for Semi-Retired Fellowship status, the definition of ‘practicing as a Fellow of RANZCOG’ shall incorporate the period in which an individual was a member of the Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RACOG) and/or the Royal New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RNZCOG) i.e., prior to the amalgamation of the two respective colleges in 1998 to establish RANZCOG.

The Semi-Retired RANZCOG Fellow Policy provides the definition of the scope of practice for Semi-Retired Fellows and the associated processes to be recognised in this class of membership. Fellows wishing to be recognised as a Semi-Retired Fellow and thus be eligible for the reduced subscription rate must complete the [Semi-Retired Fellows Reduced Subscription Application form](#) on an annual basis before making a subscription payment for the current financial year.

1.3 Semi-Retired Associates (Procedural)

In recognition of the skills and knowledge that senior Associates (Procedural & Advanced Procedural) possess and to encourage continued involvement in medical education and other relevant areas through a reduced scope of practice, the College has introduced a membership category of Semi-Retired Associates.

This category of membership offers a reduced annual subscription of 25% for Associate (Procedural) members approaching the end of their career, who have been Associate (Procedural) members for 20 years or longer. Such Members will need to be financial with RANZCOG. For any reduction to apply, total annual income must be under AUD\$100,000/NZD\$107,000 (or equivalent). The reduction will be applied as follows:

Total Annual Income	Subscription Rate Payable
Less than AUD\$100,000 or NZD\$107,000	75%

The Semi-Retired RANZCOG Associate (Procedural) Declaration provides the definition of the scope of practice for Semi-Retired Associates (Procedural & Advanced Procedural) and the associated processes to be recognised in this class of membership. Associates (Procedural) wishing to be recognised as a Semi-Retired Associate (Procedural) and thus be eligible for the reduced subscription rate must complete the [Semi-Retired Associates \(Procedural\) Reduced Subscription Application Form](#) on an annual basis before making a subscription payment for the current financial year.

1.4 Overseas Fellows participating in a recognised CPD program

For the purposes of this policy, overseas Fellow is defined as a member who is living and working overseas for an extended period (minimum period of 6 months). This reduction is only available to RANZCOG Fellows practicing overseas, not to RANZCOG subspecialists practicing overseas.

RANZCOG recognises the CPD Programs provided by the RCOG, RCOG Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH), the Hong Kong College (HKCOG), Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) and the Singapore Medical Council (SMC). Overseas

Fellows participating in one of the above RANZCOG-approved CPD Programs need to provide evidence in the form of a letter from the relevant provider (additional information required for RCPSC participants) stating that the Fellow is currently participating in the respective CPD Program.

Fellows wishing to apply for the reduction must complete the [Overseas CPD Reduction](#) application and provide documentary evidence as detailed above. Applications need to be received by the College by 31 December each year in order for the Fellow to be eligible to receive a 50% reduction in annual subscription. A new application must be made annually to the College CPD Department: cpd@ranzcog.edu.au

If or when the Fellow returns to Australia/New Zealand to practise the member must inform the College in writing and the Fellow will immediately start a new CPD period in the RANZCOG CPD Program.

1.5 Overseas Fellows in a CPD program not recognised by RANZCOG

For the purposes of this policy, overseas fellow is defined as a member who is living and working overseas for an extended period (minimum period of 6 months).

Overseas Fellows participating in a CPD Program that is not approved by the College Fellows wishing to apply for the reduction must complete the [Overseas CPD Reduction](#) application.

The application must contain evidence from the CPD Program provider in the form of a letter stating that the member is currently participating in the program as well as the following:

- CPD cycle dates
- A statement of activities logged to date
- A copy of the program guidelines
- An outline of the similarities between the overseas CPD program and the RANZCOG CPD program

Should the Continuing Professional Development Committee and Revalidation Committee recognise the program; the Fellow will be eligible to receive a 50% reduction in annual subscription. A new application must be made annually to the College CPD Department: cpd@ranzcog.edu.au

If or when the Fellow returns to Australia/New Zealand to practise the member must inform the College in writing and the Fellow will immediately start a new three-year CPD period in the RANZCOG CPD Program.

1.6 Financial Hardship

Members who wish to apply for a reduction of their annual subscription fees due to financial hardship, must complete the [Financial Hardship and Overseas Volunteer Reduced Subscription application](#). When considering hardship requests, all income sources will need to be considered. The application form also consists of a declaration section that will need to be completed to confirm validity of such requests.

Requests will be considered on the basis of reduced income or adverse financial circumstances and cannot be applied retrospectively for previous annual subscriptions that are overdue. Requests from members currently undergoing the reinstatement to membership process will not be considered. The following criteria will be used to assess eligibility:

Total Annual Income	Subscription Rate Payable
Less than AUD\$80,000 or NZD\$86,000	50%
Between AUD\$80,000 and AUD\$100,000 or Between NZD\$86,000 and NZD\$107,000	75%

All other hardship requests that fall above the AUD\$100,000/NZD\$107,000 threshold but below AUD\$150,000/NZD\$160,000 will be facilitated in the form of a payment plan, with instalments and frequencies determined on a case-by-case basis.

Members seeking a payment plan must notify the College in writing to membership@ranzcof.edu.au providing evidence of hardship.

Related RANZCOG Documents

- Semi-Retired RANZCOG Fellow Policy and Declaration
- Semi-Retired Associate (Procedural) Declaration
- Financial Hardship and Overseas Volunteer Reduced Subscription Application Form
- RANZCOG Constitution
- RANZCOG Regulations

Version	Date of Version	Pages revised / Brief Explanation of Revision
v3	July 2017	Minor revisions approved by the RANZCOG Board, July 2017
v4	February 2019	
v5	August 2021	Policy revised to separate parental and extended leave. Clause added for financial hardship. Approved as a new policy.
v6	May 2022	Policy revised to remove requirement for supporting documents under Financial Hardship clause
v7	May 2023	Policy updated to include Semi-retired Diplomate information, amendment to Semi Retired Fellows percentage.
v8	January 2024	Policy revised to reflect change in nomenclature.

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