

To whom it may concern:

I would like to submit my comments on the fee structure for NICNAS, as it relates to hobbyist soapmakers. I have not completed the entire 28-question submission, as many of the questions you are asking, I simply don't have the knowledge to answer.

For a hobbyist soapmaker such as myself, who makes enough soap to supply friends and family and to have a monthly stall at our local markets, I am required to register with NICNAS as I am selling my product. I also have insurance, in case of anyone having a reaction or allergy to an ingredient. I have a registered business name, simply because I am looking towards the day when this hobby may become something more. These fees are as follows:

\$395.00 – Tier 1 NICNAS registration
\$600.00 – Insurance
\$72.00 – Registration of business name.
\$1067.00 - Total fees

These costs must be met, before I purchase any ingredients, pay for my stall at the market, pay for the power to run my computer to track my batches, or any of the myriad other hidden costs in a hobby such as this.

My sales for the last financial year were approximately \$900.00. The ingredients for the soap sold cost about \$300. Market stall fees were about \$100. Packaging for the soap cost approximately \$60. My gross profit was approximately \$440, before I paid for any other items.

However, that is assuming that I only purchased enough ingredients to make exactly that number of soaps, which is incorrect. When you live as far away from your suppliers as I do, buying in bulk is the only sensible thing to do.

Now, I'm not expecting NICNAS to take responsibility for any of this, far from it! I just wanted to show how these fees affect a hobbyist such as myself.

I don't disagree with paying a fee. I understand that NICNAS must recover its costs. However, I do believe that the hobbyist soapmaker should not have to pay the same fee for registration as someone with a chemical value of \$499,999, particularly as I have seen no value from my registration. NICNAS have not provided me with any service, particularly no service worth \$ 395.

For the sake of having all manufacturers registered, I believe a nominal fee of up to \$100 for hobbyist soapmakers is appropriate.

Many thanks for taking the time to read my comments. I can be contacted on 0407 647 323 should you wish to speak to me further.

Rebecca Youngberry