

18 October 2018

## Feedback for applicants from the latest Expressions of Interest (EOI) round

The latest EOI Round marked the introduction of new guidelines and criteria for assessment of research impact (for IOACC and HW projects and programmes). So, what exactly is the HRC looking for in the updated research impact assessment section? Below are some tips:



The guidelines are explained in the [Research Impact Assessment slideshow](#) which sets out a 'pathway to impact' model to guide assessment. It's important to note that this incorporates both identification of interim benefits along the pathway and the final potential health impact.

Additionally, while assessment of potential research impact is partially influenced by elements of other scoring criteria, the HRC has new requirements for articulation of concepts distinct to the research impact criterion: the pathway to impact, a prospective plan to maximise benefits of the proposed research, and a summary emphasising the research team's existing networks and prior experience in mobilising knowledge and achieving real-world impact that will give assessors confidence that the proposal is likely to add value for New Zealand.

### Characteristics of a good research impact section:

1. Applicants have clearly read and responded to **new requirements** for impact as described in our revised forms and guidelines, and [Research Impact Assessment slideshow](#).
2. Clear, credible description of the line of sight from current research to potential real-world impact, with **emphasis on the pathway to impact**.
3. Consideration of the full range of **potential interim benefits** (appropriate to the context of research being proposed).
4. **Clearly-articulated action plan** describing the activities that the research team will directly undertake to maximise the potential benefits of the project – including how research users will be engaged, and potential timing of when activities will take place (e.g. co-production in the planning/scoping stages or as required to fit the needs of the stakeholders).
5. Clear identification of those **who will benefit from – and use – the research** (broader than your immediate academic community but not simply “the general public”).
6. Clear description of relevant team **track record for impact** – e.g. genuine inclusion of appropriate collaborators on the research team, meaningful relationships already



established, or why certain team members' experience is appropriate to deliver on the action plan.

**Keep in mind:** We understand that there are many external factors that are outside of your control and that delivery of wider, long-term impacts is not down to your actions alone. This is about recognising the potential impact of your research and planning for how you might maximise that. While it may not end up going to plan, if you've considered the potential use and benefits of the research at this prospective planning stage, then you'll be better placed to create and respond to opportunities to generate impact during the research process.