

# Improving Outcomes for Acute and Chronic Conditions in New Zealand

Investment Signal 2012

**Contract types available:**  
Projects and Programmes

The purpose of this Investment Signal is to seek high-quality, investigator-initiated research projects that can contribute to improving the understanding and management of disease and disability in New Zealand.

## Scope

All research for which there is a clear link between the knowledge generated and a specific disease state, condition or impairment is within scope for this Investment Signal. Conditions may be communicable or non-communicable. Biomedical research to understand an infectious agent or the pathology of a specific disease entity or organ system is included. All aspects of health improvement are covered, including diagnosis, development and optimisation of treatments, clinical management, prevention of complications and co-morbid conditions, patient self-management, rehabilitation, and palliative or end-of-life care.

No research is excluded from this Research Investment Stream on the basis of methodological approach. Applicants who feel their proposal is in scope for more than one Research Investment Stream should choose the stream in which their research will make the greatest contribution to the goals.

Box A provides **examples** of research areas in scope for this Investment Signal.

## Goals

The HRC has set the following goals for research funded through this Research Investment Stream. All applications will be assessed on science quality *and* the extent to which the application has impact<sup>1</sup> in relation to one or more of the goals in this Research Investment Stream. Applicants should seek to reduce the burden of disease or impairment in New Zealand through health research that:

- Improves understanding of the molecular, cellular or pathological basis of acute and chronic health conditions;
- Contributes to improved outcomes for individuals and populations with disease or injury;
- Contributes to cost-effective economically sustainable solutions;
- Reduces inequalities in health-related outcomes, whether these relate to gender, ethnic, socio-economic, geographic or other disparities, and/or
- Delivers direct economic benefits for New Zealand, in addition to achieving a primary outcome of health benefit.

## Research Priorities

The HRC expects that applicants will demonstrate how their research will bring benefit to New Zealanders in terms of the goals for investment outlined in the previous section. Priorities for this Research Investment Stream are:

1. Research that has a significant and demonstrable impact on knowledge, clinical practice, patient outcomes or policy. Where relevant, the pathway through which this impact will be achieved should be described.
2. Research that reduces inequalities for those facing the greatest burden of disease. In New Zealand, Māori and Pacific populations face significant inequalities spanning a wide range of disease states<sup>[1],[2]</sup>. Therefore, research seeking to improve the health of these populations is a priority.

1 Applicants are strongly advised to review the Assessment Criteria. Impact on the RIS goal(s) is one component which makes up the score for impact, worth 25 per cent of the overall score.

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## Further Information

Applicants should refer to the overarching document 'General Guidelines' and relevant information on the application and assessment process. All documents are available on the HRC website, [www.hrc.govt.nz](http://www.hrc.govt.nz).

### Box A: Examples of Areas in Scope for this Investment Signal

Research within scope includes, **but is not limited to**, that which seeks to develop, understand and/or improve:

- Animal models or technology platforms intended to support research on a specified disease state or condition;
- The biological origins of an acute or chronic condition;
- Epidemiology as a guide to the management of patients in whom disease has already developed;
- Health technology that will be used to diagnose or treat specific acute or chronic conditions, including diagnostic or prognostic markers, the development of laboratory or clinical tests and equipment/devices;
- Specific treatments, including drug development, clinical trials of new and existing agents, gene therapy and immunotherapy;
- Screening for co-morbid or secondary conditions in an individual with an existing disease/condition;
- Health delivery research likely to impact on clinical practice or treatment guidelines, but not within the timeframe specified in the New Zealand Health Delivery stream (within five years of funding commencing);
- Rehabilitation from a specific disease, injury or mental illness, and
- Palliative and end-of-life care.

### What research is better aligned with other Investment Signals?

Research Area	Relevant Investment Signal
Research focused solely on the primary prevention of acute or chronic conditions. Biomedical research to understand normal development and biological processes relevant to multiple disease processes.	Health and Wellbeing in New Zealand
Māori health research may <b>also</b> be eligible for the Rangahau Hauora Māori stream if it meets the six goals specified in the Investment Signal.	Rangahau Hauora Māori
Research intended to generate improvements in health service delivery in the short-to-medium term (within five years of the research contract commencing).	New Zealand Health Delivery

The information provided in this table is a general guideline only. Researchers are advised to review *all* Investment Signals to establish which one is the best fit for their proposed research.

#### References

- [1] Ministry of Health. 2010. *Tatau Kahukura: Māori Health Chart Book 2010*, 2nd Edition. Wellington: Ministry of Health.  
 [2] Ministry of Health. 2004. *Tupu Ola Moui: Pacific Health Chart Book 2004*. Wellington: Ministry of Health.