

HRC Investment Signals 2012

General Guidelines

Overview

The HRC's new investment framework will consist of four Research Investment Streams, summarised below. An Investment Signal will be released annually for each stream to initiate the call for research proposals. Applicants are advised to review all Investment Signals and the Frequently Asked Questions document to establish which one is the best fit for their research proposal. The onus is on applicants to identify the most appropriate stream. Assessing Committees will be advised to score applications that are 'out of scope' a maximum of 1 out of 7 points (25 per cent of the overall score).

Title and brief description of purpose	Indicative budget
Health and Wellbeing in New Zealand (HW) <i>Keeping populations healthy and independent throughout life</i>	70%
Improving Outcomes for Acute and Chronic Conditions in New Zealand (IOACC) <i>Improving outcomes for people with illness or injury</i>	
New Zealand Health Delivery (NZHD) <i>Improving health and disability service delivery outcomes over the short-to-medium term</i>	20%
Rangahau Hauora Māori (RHM) <i>Supporting Māori health research that upholds rangatiratanga and utilises and advances Māori knowledge, resources, and people</i>	10%

Investment Signals

The Investment Signals for each Research Investment Stream have a common structure:

Purpose: a high-level statement of the core objective(s) of the Research Investment Stream.

Scope: a description of the range of research areas included under the Research Investment Stream.

Goal(s): a description of the specific outcomes HRC aims to contribute to by supporting research under the Research Investment Stream. Researchers are only required to address one goal in their proposal (although more than one goal can be addressed if relevant). There is no hierarchy of the goals.

Research Priorities/Research Characteristics: areas/issues that have been identified by the HRC as having potential to make a particularly beneficial contribution to the Investment Signal goals. However, researchers are welcome to make the case for how other research areas (within scope) could achieve substantial impact. All applicants must demonstrate how their research will advance at least one signal goal.

Research Examples: All Investment Signals (except RHM) provide examples of research in scope for the Investment Signal. These are located within Box A at the end of the signal.

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Further Information

Investment Signals and relevant information on the application and assessment processes are available on the HRC website, www.hrc.govt.nz.

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Research funded through IOACC, RHM and HW investment streams may contribute to improved health outcomes in the short-, medium- or long-term. Research funded through NZHD must have a tangible, positive impact on health delivery in the short-to-medium term (defined as within five years of the contract commencing).

Proposals from across the research spectrum are in scope for IOACC, RHM and HW, from **fundamental biomedical research proposals to applied public health and clinical interventions**. Fundamental research is unlikely to meet the goal set for NZHD because it is unlikely to have impact within the specified short-to-medium term. Research addressing Māori health issues is not restricted to the RHM stream and is in scope for any of the four streams if it meets the relevant criteria.

Research is not excluded from any stream on the basis of relevance to a particular condition or injury. Proposals are not excluded from any stream on the basis of methodology, although applicants to the RHM stream must demonstrate Māori health research methodology (and alignment to the other goals of the Investment Signal).

Applicants who believe their Project proposal is in scope for more than one Research Investment Stream should choose the stream with the goals that best fit the principal aims of their research.

Programme proposals may demonstrate contribution to goals for more than one Research Investment Stream. However, applicants must specify a primary Research Investment Stream that best fits the majority of their research objectives.

Applicants should refer to the individual Investment Signals and the Frequently Asked Questions document for more details.

Key Dates for Projects and Programmes

For Projects, a two-stage application process will apply. All eligible applicants are invited to submit an Expression of Interest application; selected applicants will be invited to submit a Full Application.

For Programmes, a one-stage application process will apply. Please review the Eligibility Requirements for Programme Directors outlined in the Programme Guidelines.

	KEY DATES	
	Projects	Programmes
Closing date for registration of applications	31 August 2011	3 October 2011
Closing date for Expressions of Interest	16 September 2011	
Applicants notified of outcomes for Expressions of Interest	7 November 2011	
Closing date for Full Applications	16 December 2011	4 November 2011
Applicants notified of outcomes for Full Applications	June 2012	June 2012