

# Research Investment Strategy



Health Research  
Council of  
New Zealand  
Te Kaunihera Rangahau Hauora o Aotearoa

**September 2011**

## **Research Investment Strategy Summary 2012**

**Mission:** benefiting New Zealand  
through health research

**Vision:** improved health and quality  
of life for all

## Introduction

The Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC), as the Government's principal Funding and Investment Agent for health research, will invest in research relevant to the Government's objectives for Vote Science and Innovation and to the needs of the health sector in New Zealand. In the 2012 financial year, the HRC will offer health research funding opportunities leading to allocation of funds detailed in the HRC Statement of Intent 2011-2014 and summarised in this document. All figures quoted in this Research Investment Strategy Summary document, which replaces the discontinued annual *HRC Investment Strategy*, are GST exclusive. Full details of funding opportunities are available on the HRC website ([www.hrc.govt.nz](http://www.hrc.govt.nz)).

## 2012 Annual Funding Round

The HRC will invest \$72.5 M in four Research Investment Streams:

- New Zealand Health Delivery - research will support innovation and improvement in health service delivery and planning (about 20% of new investment);
- Rangahau Hauora Māori – research will build an evidence base, which contributes to Māori health gains (about 10% of new investment);
- Improving Outcomes for Acute and Chronic Conditions in New Zealand – research will lead to improved understanding and management of conditions that impact on the lives of New Zealanders, such as stroke, cardiovascular disease, cancer and respiratory disease;
- Health and Wellbeing in New Zealand – research will focus on maintaining health and wellbeing throughout the life course.

Around 70% of new investment will be allocated to research in the priority areas of Improving Outcomes for Acute and Chronic Conditions in New Zealand, and Health and Wellbeing in New Zealand.

More detail of the goals and scope for each of the Research Investment Streams is provided in their respective Research Investment Signals.

Details of contract types offered in the Annual Funding Round, application and assessment processes, and approximate budget allocations are available on the HRC website. As a guide, the budget allocations and numbers of likely new research contracts for the 2012 Annual Funding Round are: Programme (\$10 M, 3 contracts); Programme Extension (\$25 M, 6 contracts); Project (\$35 M, 34 contracts); Emerging Researcher First Grant (\$1.5 M, 11 contracts); Feasibility Study (\$1 M, 8 contracts).

## Health Research Career Development and Support Contracts

HRC supports the recruitment, education, training and retention of those engaged in health research through targeted career development awards. Our awards are mainly aimed at developing and supporting the health research workforce in areas where there is evidence of low capacity and capability, these being the Māori, Pacific

and clinical research workforce. HRC will introduce research fellowships for senior clinical researchers, to support integration and translation of research into clinical practice. In addition, HRC offers up to three significant awards per year for upcoming research stars; Sir Charles Hercus Health Research Fellowships are valued at \$0.5M over four years and are aimed at those transitioning from postdoctoral researcher to research group leader. In the coming year, HRC intends to invest \$6 M in research career development and support. Closing dates and full information are available from the HRC website.

### **Co-funding Relationships**

HRC's Partnership Programme establishes and manages health research co-funding relationships with a wide range of government and non-government organisations. By coordinating needs and funding across organisations, these partnerships make efficient and effective use of scarce resources. In the coming year HRC will invest \$3.5 M in contracts that involve partnering, to support research in diverse areas, as opportunities and needs are identified. This will include the Research Partnerships for Health Delivery scheme, which seeks to support research meeting the needs of decision makers in healthcare delivery organisations. All research contracts are subject to HRC's usual stringent quality assessment and monitoring. Funding opportunities are announced throughout the year on the HRC website.

### **Nga Kanohi Kitea**

The Ngā Kanohi Kitea Community Grants funding initiative provides an opportunity for iwi, hapū and community groups to investigate a well-defined area of Māori health need or gain. Both small development grants and larger project grants are offered, with details available from the HRC website. Total new investment of around \$800,000 is planned. HRC's usual quality assessment of proposals and monitoring of contracts will apply.