

Statement from the Steering Group for Implementation of the New Zealand Health Research Strategy 2017-2027

Decision

On 17 April, members of the **New Zealand Health Research Strategy** Steering Group listed in Appendix 1, approved the process developed by the Health Research Council of New Zealand for setting national priorities for health research, under Action One of the Strategy. The process and timeline are set out in Appendix 2.

Rationale

The Development Group which will identify **Strategic Investment Areas (SIAs)** to focus Government investment in health research **is designed to be impartial**, and the process is structured to ensure the unbiased and broad development of priorities. **Taking on board consultation feedback:**

1. The **Development Group** will have 13 members, who are respected individuals, known for their strategic ability. Members will be drawn from the **health and social science research, health delivery, innovation, non-government, and patient advocacy** sectors. The Development Group will **have at least two Māori members** and a **Māori Co-Chair**. Membership of the Development Group will be published before it first meets in June 2018. Members will be knowledgeable about New Zealand's health and research sectors, but not all members will be practising researchers. The Terms of Reference are set out in Appendix 3.
2. **Expert Panels** will be established to provide the expertise needed to formulate more specific research questions, themes, or opportunities within each SIA. **Expert Panels** will not be convened until after the Development Group has revised the draft SIAs based on feedback from public consultation.
3. **International experts** will be asked to assess the SIAs and Themes in terms of identifying where international research effort and evidence already exists that can be drawn upon and adapted to the NZ context.
4. The **NZHRS Steering Group will sign off on the final SIAs and Themes agreed by the Development Group**, to ensure that they are aligned with the goals of the New Zealand Health Research Strategy and with the government's vision.

The process developed by the HRC is collaborative, and inclusive of a broad range of voices. The process incorporates feedback from an initial public consultation, results of which are attached as Appendix 4. Consultation on priorities will include a combination of online submissions, webinars, and focus groups, to amplify the voices that can often be marginalised by consultation processes.

Partnership with Māori is evident throughout the process, including in the Māori Co-Chair of the Development Group. The consultation process is being designed with Māori to ensure appropriate engagement.

Adoption of the 'Accountability for Reasonableness' system ensures that **the process is transparent**. All key decisions and the rationale behind them will be published online for public scrutiny, and the attached timeline provides specific points at which decisions can be formally appealed. This Statement is the first of the key decision-points in this process which can be appealed, beginning on **2 May 2018**.

The process is robust and fit-for-purpose. The staged process for identification and refinement of priorities will produce priorities which will endure and will achieve buy-in from all stakeholders across the health, science, and innovation sectors. The **broad SIAs will be announced in early 2019**, and more specific Themes will be refined with input from New Zealand and international experts. The **specific Themes will be announced towards the end of 2019**.

Appendices

- 1: Members of the NZHRS Steering Group
2. Schematic of the final process
3. Terms of Reference for the Development Group
4. Results of the consultation on the process