

hrcnz

Health Research Council
of New Zealand

Te Kaunihera Rangahau Hauora o Aotearoa

Research Investment Plan

2026/27



**New Zealand
Government**

Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa

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Section 1:

Health Research Council Investment Plan 2026/27

The Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) is a Crown agent and the principal government funder of health research in New Zealand. Our investments improve health outcomes, strengthen the delivery of health services, and contribute to the nation's science, innovation and technology system and the wider economy.

This Research Investment Plan provides researchers with high-level guidance about the HRC's funding opportunities and priorities for investment for all funding rounds administered during the 2026/27 financial year (1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027). Researchers are expected to consider how their applications will address the investment priorities set out in this plan.

This Research Investment Plan is published in the context of significant sector reform, which will impact the future operations of the HRC (see Section 3 for further information). The Research Investment Plan may be updated to align with future science, innovation and technology (SI&T) system direction.

Investment areas

The HRC administers the Health Research Fund on behalf of government and makes investments in health research that:

- have a direct line of sight to improving health outcomes for all New Zealanders
- strengthen the delivery of quality, timely and effective health services
- harness the benefits of innovation to contribute to economic growth and prosperity.

Our investment spans the biomedical, clinical, health services, public health, Māori health and Pacific health research domains.

The HRC has three investment areas designed to ensure that every investment decision is focused on delivering improved health outcomes for all New Zealanders.¹ The investment areas encompass the entire spectrum of health research, from basic to applied and all research disciplines.

Research skills and expertise (Career Development Awards)

We invest in training the health research workforce where capacity and capability is needed through our Career Development Awards.

Research, evidence and solutions (Investigator-initiated research)

We invest in investigator-initiated research proposed by health researchers in response to health need and scientific opportunity to advance health and improve health services in New Zealand.

Research needs and opportunities (Targeted calls)

We invest in targeted funding initiatives to address priority health needs and critical gaps in research knowledge and evidence.

Research priorities for 2026/27

New Zealand's investment in health research must contribute to achieving the goals of the health and the SI&T systems.²

The quality and scientific rigour of a research proposal are the primary assessment considerations. The HRC Council consider each proposal's strength of alignment with one or more of the HRC's priorities, depending on the funding opportunity. Where

¹ See Section 2 for the HRC's Statement of Intent 2024 – 2028 performance framework, which sets out our contribution, aspiration, investment areas and strategic intentions, and the outcomes we seek for the health system and the SI&T sector.

² <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/new-zealands-health-system/health-system-roles-and-organisations/health-crown-entities/letters-of-expectations-for-health-statutory-entities>

applicable, research proposals are required to align with the priorities to the greatest extent possible.

For the 2026/27 financial year, the HRC has five research priorities for investment. It is important for HRC applicants to identify how their research will contribute to the research priorities.

Priority 1: Maximise the benefit for healthcare delivery

The HRC will prioritise excellent research that will make a tangible difference to health delivery policy, practice, and systems to improve outcomes and experiences for all patients. In particular, the HRC is looking to invest in research that will provide the evidence needed for a learning health system, with a clear focus on maximising the benefit for healthcare delivery by:

- supporting new or improved models of care and treatments
- promoting improved effectiveness and efficiency, and / or
- fostering innovation and technology in healthcare.

This may include:

- community-based care, primary care or secondary/tertiary health services
- the evaluation of new or improved treatments, uses of medicines or therapeutic interventions
- investigating a new or significantly improved product, process or organisational practice that can generate improved effectiveness and efficiency for healthcare delivery
- research focussed on the use of advanced technologies in healthcare delivery to increase productivity and efficacy.

Priority 2: Contribute to achievement of the health and/or mental health and addiction targets

The Government has five health targets and five mental health and addiction targets, which are a mechanism for measuring health system performance and accountability.³ The HRC will prioritise funding research that provides high-quality evidence that will **directly inform progress on reaching the health targets and mental health and addiction targets, in the near-term.**

Priority 3: Enhance the development of clinician researchers

Clinician researchers⁴ are a critical enabler for strengthening the health system's capacity to deliver safe, effective and appropriate interventions and services, support the application of evidence, enquiry and innovation within the health sector, and contribute to a culture of continuous learning within the health system. Skilled clinician researchers also form a vital part of our clinical trials infrastructure, enabling New Zealand's participation in high-quality, internationally recognised clinical trials.

To maximise the opportunity for HRC-funded research to enhance the development of clinician researchers, the HRC will prioritise funding **applications that support the development and retention of the clinician researcher workforce in New Zealand.**

Priority 4: Demonstrate a pathway to commercialisation

The HRC is best placed to support the commercialisation pathway by investing in the early stages of the health innovation pipeline. This includes innovative ideas that may lead to the commercialisation of research by researchers, the government, university technology transfer offices and other agencies, who are skilled at realising the commercial benefits of health research.

To maximise the opportunity for HRC-funded research to drive economic transformation and

³ The [five health targets](#) are: faster cancer treatment; improved immunisation for children; shorter stays in emergency departments; shorter wait times for first specialist assessment; and shorter wait times for elective treatment. The five [mental health and addiction targets](#) are: faster access to specialist mental health and addiction services; faster access to primary mental health and addiction services; shorter mental health and addiction-related stays in emergency departments; increased mental health and addiction workforce development; and strengthened focus on prevention and early intervention.

⁴ The HRC defines a clinician-researcher as conducting research and providing clinical services in any setting, under formal work arrangement and is eligible to undertake clinical practice in New Zealand either under the [Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003](#), through registration with the relevant responsible authority, or as a member of [Allied Health Aotearoa NZ](#).

contribute to growing the economy, the HRC will prioritise funding for researchers who **define a clear pathway to support the commercialisation of research outputs and sufficiently detail the steps they will take towards commercialisation.**

Priority 5: High-quality clinical trials

The HRC is seeking to invest in high-quality, internationally recognised clinical trials, including those with a particular focus on cancer and/or blood cancers.

Science Investment Plan

For the 2026/27 financial year, the HRC will continue to work closely with the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology, MBIE, the Minister of Health, and the Ministry of Health, to implement any Cabinet recommendations that result from the ongoing work on the SI&T reforms (see Section 3 for further information).

For the HRC Council, this includes ensuring its decision-making aligns with the prioritisation principles for investment and priorities set by the Government's system-wide Science Investment Plan and the Health and Society Pillar Investment Plan, once published. The Science Investment Plan is the Government's response to the Prime Minister's Science, Innovation and Technology Advisory Council (PMSITAC) report,^{5,6} and aligns public investment with long-term goals, directing funding to what is most important for New Zealand.

As work to transition to the new science funding system progresses, this may result in revised priorities for HRC investment. This Research Investment Plan will be updated as needed to align with and respond to any new priorities for the SI&T system.

Researchers must ensure they are responding to the most up-to-date information and carefully read the application guidelines, particularly any new sections, before preparing their application so that their proposal aligns with a given funding opportunity's requirements. Details of each funding

opportunity are available on HRC Gateway, our research applicant portal.⁷

Please note, the research priorities are not applicable for all funding rounds, and this Research Investment Plan should be read together with the detailed requirements for each funding opportunity outlined in the application guidelines available on HRC Gateway.

Funding opportunities for 2026/27

The HRC's funding opportunities are aligned to each investment area (see page 3 for more information). For the 2026/27 financial year, the HRC plans to offer the funding opportunities identified in this section. All funding opportunities will be publicised with details provided on HRC Gateway as they become available.

Career Development Awards

Sir Charles Hercus Fellowship

Clinical Research Training Fellowship

Foxley Fellowship

Health Delivery Career Development Awards

Māori Postdoctoral Fellowship

Māori PhD Scholarship

Māori Masters Scholarship

Pacific Postdoctoral Fellowship

Pacific PhD scholarship

Pacific Masters Scholarship

The value and duration vary for each career development award, please refer directly to the specific application guidelines on HRC Gateway for further information.

The HRC is seeking opportunities to invest in training the health research workforce in areas where capacity and capability is needed across the entire spectrum of health research, from basic to applied and across all research disciplines. Alignment with the following research priorities will be applicable only to the 2027 Postdoctoral Fellowships and the Sir Charles Hercus Health Research Fellowships:

- Priority 1: Maximise the benefit for healthcare delivery.

⁵ Science Investment Plan is available from: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/32023-science-investment-plan-2026-2036>

⁶ PMSITAC Report is available from: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/31887-report-to-the-prime-minister-prioritisation-in-new-zealands-science-innovation-and-technology-system>

⁷ <https://gateway.hrc.govt.nz/>

- Priority 2: Contribute to achievement of the health and/or mental health and addiction targets.
- Priority 3: Enhance the development of clinician-researchers.
- Priority 4: Demonstrate a pathway to commercialisation.

The research priorities are not applicable to other 2027 Career Development Awards.

We expect to offer approximately 18 - 29 career development awards in the coming year.

Investigator-initiated research

Programme grants

Duration: up to 5 years

Value: Up to \$5 million

Programme grants support high-performing teams to undertake a programme of health research in an area of importance and priority that will tangibly contribute to improved health outcomes for New Zealanders or make a significant breakthrough within a field of research. Our Programme grants are offered across the full spectrum of health research disciplines.

The following research priorities will be applicable to the 2027 Programmes funding round:

- Priority 1: Maximise the benefit for healthcare delivery.
- Priority 2: Contribute to achievement of the health and/or mental health and addiction targets.
- Priority 3: Enhance the development of clinician-researchers.
- Priority 4: Demonstrate a pathway to commercialisation.
- Priority 5: High-quality clinical trials.

We expect to offer approximately 2 – 4 Programmes in the coming year.

Project grants

Duration: up to 3 years

Value: Up to \$1.2 million or \$1.44 million for randomised control trials

Project grants support research that has the potential to improve the health of all New Zealanders across the full spectrum of health research disciplines, including biomedical, clinical, health services and public health research.

Early and mid-career researchers who have not previously been a lead researcher on a Project are able to apply as co-lead researchers alongside a more experienced researcher. This forms part of our focus on building the health research workforce of the future and providing more stable and sustainable research career opportunities. The following research priorities will be applicable to the 2027 Projects funding round:

- Priority 1: Maximise the benefit for healthcare delivery.
- Priority 2: Contribute to achievement of the health and/or mental health and addiction targets.
- Priority 3: Enhance the development of clinician-researchers.
- Priority 4: Demonstrate a pathway to commercialisation.
- Priority 5: High-quality clinical trials.

We expect to offer approximately 40 Projects in the coming year.

Health Delivery Research Project grants

Duration: up to 5 years

Value: Up to \$1.4 million

Health Delivery Research Project grants support research that has the potential to directly inform decisions or changes to health delivery policy, practice or systems within the next 3 – 5 years and:

- is conducted in a healthcare delivery setting, and
- has a clear connection to a healthcare need, and
- includes practicing clinicians and/or health policymakers in the research team.

The following research priorities will be applicable to the 2027 Health Delivery Projects funding round:

- Priority 1: Maximise the benefit for healthcare delivery.
- Priority 2: Contribute to achievement of the health and/or mental health and addiction targets.
- Priority 3: Enhance the development of clinician-researchers.
- Priority 4: Demonstrate a pathway to commercialisation.
- Priority 5: High-quality clinical trials.

We expect to offer approximately 5 – 8 Health Delivery Research Project grants in the coming year.

Explorer grants

Duration: up to 2 years

Value: Up to \$150,000

Explorer grants provide seed support for researchers with transformative, innovative, exploratory or unconventional research ideas that have a good chance of making novel changes to health outcomes or services in New Zealand.

The research priorities are not applicable to the 2027 Explorer grant funding round as the HRC is seeking opportunities to invest in potentially transformative, innovative, exploratory or unconventional research ideas from any field.

We expect to offer approximately 10 – 12 Explorer grants in the coming year.

Targeted calls

Targeted calls are in response to priority health needs and critical gaps in evidence.⁸

If the HRC launches a targeted call in 2026/27, information will be advertised in our Update electronic newsletter,⁹ and available on our website and HRC Gateway.

He Ara Whakāhiko – Hauora Fund

The HRC administers this funding on behalf of MBIE and the strategic outcomes align with the He Ara Whakāhiko Capability Fund Investment Plan,¹⁰ and the Hauora/Oranga theme of the Vision Mātauranga policy.¹¹ The He Ara Whakāhiko – Hauora Fund provides funding for high-quality biomedical and clinical research that will contribute to improved Māori health outcomes, strengthen Māori health research capability, create clear pathways to impact, and deliver both health and economic outcomes.

⁸ The HRC may introduce at any time, new funding opportunities to ensure we are able to meet our investment objectives. Any new funding opportunities will be publicised with details provided on HRC Gateway, as they become available.

⁹ <https://www.hrc.govt.nz/news-and-events/newsletters>

¹⁰ <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/science-and-innovation/funding-information-and-opportunities/investment-funds/he-ara-whakāhiko-capability-fund>

¹¹ <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/science-and-innovation/agencies-policies-and-budget-initiatives/vision-matauranga-policy>

Research applications must align with the intent, scope and priorities of the He Ara Whakahiako – Hauora Fund call. This includes demonstrating alignment with the Fund’s objectives to produce timely, actionable evidence with clear pathways to clinical application, growing Māori health research capability and capacity and fostering partnerships and collaborations between Māori-facing organisations, Māori health researchers and communities with industry and/or health providers.

Information about upcoming calls will be advertised in our Update electronic newsletter and available on our website and HRC Gateway, the research applicant portal.

Funding process and decisions

The HRC uses a range of contestable assessment criteria and processes to identify excellent research most likely to contribute to improving the health outcomes of all New Zealanders, strengthening the delivery of health services and harnessing the benefits of research and innovation to drive economic transformation.

Our investment processes are tailored to suit the specific funding opportunity. Grant-specific information including application and assessment processes, eligibility criteria, and assessment criteria are available in the guidelines for each award type. Guidelines are available in full on HRC Gateway.

Other valuable information such as ethics guidelines for health research, Māori health research, and Pacific health research, a copy of the HRC research contract and the New Zealand Standard CV template are also available on HRC Gateway.

The HRC Council are responsible for making funding decisions and allocating funds as set out in the Health Research Council Act 1990.¹² Council makes final decisions on funding by considering the quality and scientific rigour of the

application (informed by assessing committee recommendations), the HRC’s priorities for health research and the balance of the HRC investment portfolio. Council investment decisions are also aligned with the prioritisation principles outlined in the Science Investment Plan.

For the 2026/27 financial year, Council funding decisions will align with the research priorities signalled in this Research Investment Plan to the greatest extent possible, subject to the proposals submitted in a particular funding round.

¹² <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1990/68/en/latest/#DLM213017>

Section 2:

About the Health Research Council

The HRC is a Crown agent and the principal government funder of health research. The HRC's performance framework (see overpage) sets out how the HRC reports on, and captures the benefits of, the research we fund.

This Research Investment Plan sets out the actions we are asking researchers to take to ensure the HRC achieves our mandate and wider strategic objectives. The priority actions in the performance framework are the actions the HRC plans to undertake through to 2028, in partnership with the health research community, to achieve our aspiration for all New Zealanders to benefit from our world-leading, high-impact, high-value health research.¹³

The HRC receives an annual Letter of Expectations from our Ministers with key priorities and areas of focus for the upcoming year.¹⁴ We also work closely with the Ministry of Health and where possible, Health New Zealand and the health sector to understand priorities for health research investment, evidence needs and workforce development to enhance alignment with the strategic priorities of the health system and achievement of health targets.

The HRC supports the delivery of wider government science policy and priorities and this financial year, a core focus for the HRC will be aligning with the SI&T system reforms currently underway to ensure the HRC is contributing to a more strategic and outcomes focussed SI&T system, to ensure health researchers are well positioned within the new funding system (see Section 3 for more information).

Our annual Statement of Performance Expectations details how the HRC plans to address these strategic drivers through our planned investments and supporting assessment processes and criteria and should be read alongside this Research Investment Plan.¹⁵

Key facts about the HRC

Crown Agent established through the HRC Act 1990.

Accountable to:

- The Minister of Health (responsible Minister under the HRC Act).
- The Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology (funding and monitoring).

Aspiration: All New Zealanders benefit from our world-leading, high-impact, high-value health research.

Principal statutory functions under the HRC Act 1990:

- Advise the Minister of Health on national health research policy.
- Advise on health research priorities for New Zealand.
- Initiate and support health research.
- Foster the recruitment, training and retention of health researchers in New Zealand.

Our strategic intentions from our Statement of Intent 2024 – 2028:

- Drive research impact, innovation and excellence.
- Focus on health need and improving health outcomes.
- Invest in the people and capability New Zealand needs now and for the future.
- Add value through connection and collaboration.
- Support the safe and ethical conduct of research.

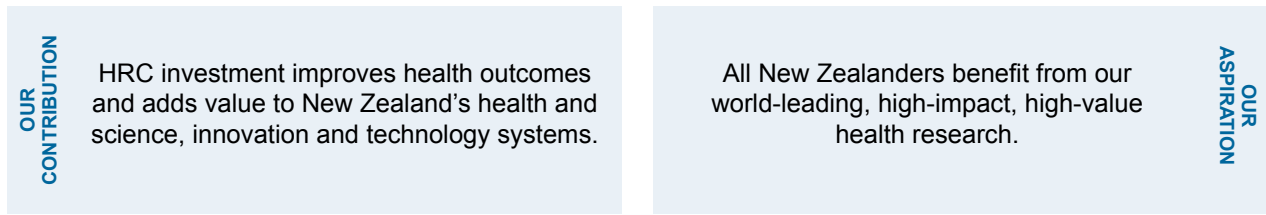
¹³ The full Statement of Intent 2024 – 2028 is available on the HRC website:

https://www.hrc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-11/Statement_Intent_2024_WEB.pdf

¹⁴ The Letter of Expectations is available here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/new-zealands-health-system/health-system-roles-and-organisations/health-crown-entities/letters-of-expectations-for-health-statutory-entities>

¹⁵ <https://www.hrc.govt.nz/resources/statement-performance-expectations>

HRC's performance framework for 2024–2028



Section 3:

Science system reforms

This Research Investment Plan is published in the context of significant sector reform.¹⁶ The Government is making changes to New Zealand's science, innovation and technology (SI&T) system to strengthen its performance by clarifying priorities and moving to a simpler, more strategic funding system focussed on delivering economic outcomes and harnessing the benefits of advanced technology.

A board has been appointed for the newly established Research Funding New Zealand,¹⁷ who will be responsible for making most funding decisions across the SI&T system. Research Funding New Zealand will ensure funding is aligned with the Government's Science Investment Plan, informed by PMSITAC advice, within the four pillars of national importance.¹⁸

Research Funding New Zealand will replace most existing decision makers, including the Marsden Fund Council, the Science Board and some of MBIE's decision-making functions.

An in-principle decision has been made to disestablish the HRC and transfer its functions to either Research Funding New Zealand, MBIE, or the Ministry of Health, pending appropriate legislative change and operational transition plans. Implementation will be phased, and exact timings are dependent on the passing of the relevant legislation and provisions coming into effect. It is likely the full transition of funding responsibilities will occur by the end of 2028. The HRC's current statutory functions will move as follows:

- Funding decision-making to Research Funding New Zealand and administration to MBIE.
- Ethics function to be considered by the National Ethics Advisory Committee on Health and Disability Support Services Ethics (NEAC) in

the Ministry of Health. NEAC will be responsible for developing a new National Ethical Standard for Human Research which will define the core components of the national ethics system and clarify the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders.

- Science review of new medicines to Medsafe in the Ministry of Health.
- Workforce development to MBIE and the Ministry of Health.
- National health research policy and advice to the Ministry of Health (with MBIE supporting alignment between the health research and SI&T systems).

A focus for the HRC for the 2026/27 financial year will be supporting MBIE and the Ministry of Health as requested, on the next steps, including implementation of the science system reforms and transition of the HRC's statutory functions to the relevant agencies. This involves the HRC aligning with the priorities set out in the Government's Science Investment Plan, which are to be operationalised through Research Funding New Zealand's Pillar Investment Plans. Further information will be published on the HRC website,¹⁹ and Update electronic newsletter,²⁰ as it becomes available.

¹⁶ <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/science-and-innovation/refocusing-the-science-innovation-and-technology-system/a-new-funding-strategy-for-the-science-system>

¹⁷ For more information see: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/science-and-innovation/refocusing-the-science-innovation-and-technology-system/research-funding-new-zealand>

¹⁸ These four mission-led pillars reflect areas where New Zealand has established strengths and emerging opportunities: Primary Industries and Bioeconomy; Technology for Prosperity; Environmental Sustainability and Resilience; and Healthy People and a Thriving Society.

¹⁹ <https://www.hrc.govt.nz/>

²⁰ <https://www.hrc.govt.nz/news-and-events/newsletters>

Section 4:

Understanding the wider strategy and policy context for health research

This section outlines the key policies and strategies that guide our work and the HRC's national operating context, in addition to the Health Research Council Act 1990 and our annual Letter of Expectations.

New Zealand Health Research Strategy 2017 – 2027

The New Zealand Health Research Strategy (NZHRS) defines four strategic priorities to achieve its Vision:

- **Strategic Priority 1:** Invest in excellent health research that addresses the health needs of all New Zealanders.
- **Strategic Priority 2:** Create a vibrant research environment in the health sector.
- **Strategic Priority 3:** Build and strengthen pathways for translating research findings into policy and practice.
- **Strategic Priority 4:** Advance innovative ideas and commercial opportunities.

This financial year, the NZHRS is due to conclude.

Government Policy Statement on Health 2024 – 2027

The Government Policy Statement on Health 2024 – 2027 (the GPS) sets the Government's direction and priorities for the health system.²¹ This includes expectations for health entities, including the HRC, to ensure all parts of the health sector work towards shared goals that matter for New Zealanders.

The GPS sets out five priority areas for the health system.

- **Access:** Ensuring all New Zealanders have equitable access to the health care services they need, no matter where they live.

- **Timeliness:** Making sure all New Zealanders can access these services in a prompt and efficient way.
- **Quality:** Ensuring New Zealand's health care and services are safe, easy to navigate, understandable and welcoming to users, and are continuously improving.
- **Workforce:** Having a skilled and culturally capable workforce who are accessible, responsive, and supported to deliver safe and effective health care.
- **Infrastructure:** Ensuring that the health system is resilient and has the digital and physical infrastructure it needs to meet people's needs now and the future.

This financial year, through our planned investments and the research priorities set out in this Research Investment Plan, the HRC will continue to contribute to the goals of the GPS. For further details refer to the 'How the Health Research Council will address our Ministers' expectations' section of our 2026/27 Statement of Performance Expectations.²²

²¹ <https://www.health.govt.nz/publications/government-policy-statement-on-health-2024-2027>

²² <https://www.hrc.govt.nz/resources/statement-performance-expectations>

Health targets and the mental health and addiction targets

The Government has set five health targets as a mechanism for supporting the delivery of better health outcomes for New Zealanders and measuring the health system performance and accountability.²³ The five health targets are:

1. **Faster cancer treatment:** 90% of patients to receive cancer management within 31 days of the decision to treat.
2. **Improved immunisation:** 95% of children fully immunised at 24 months of age.
3. **Shorter stays in emergency departments:** 95% of patients to be admitted, discharged or transferred from an emergency department within six hours.
4. **Shorter wait times for first specialist assessment:** 95% of patients wait less than 4 months for a first specialist assessment.
5. **Shorter wait times for elective treatment:** 95% of patients wait less than 4 months for elective treatment.

Five mental health and addiction targets have been introduced to support the delivery of better mental health outcomes for New Zealanders and improve the performance of our health services:²⁴

1. **Faster access to specialist mental health and addiction services:** 80% of people accessing specialist mental health and addiction services are seen within 3 weeks.
2. **Faster access to primary mental health and addiction services:** 80% of people accessing primary mental health and addiction services through the Access and Choice programme are seen within 1 week.
3. **Shorter mental health and addiction-related stays in emergency departments:** 95% of mental health and addiction related emergency department presentations are admitted,

discharged, or transferred from an emergency department within 6 hours.

4. **Increased mental health and addiction workforce development:** Train 500 mental health and addiction professionals each year.
5. **Strengthened focus on prevention and early intervention:** 25% of mental health and addiction investment is allocated towards prevention and early intervention.

This financial year, the Council will continue to seek opportunities to prioritise investing in research that contributes to achievement of the health and/or mental health and addiction targets, within the near term.

Going For Growth

Going For Growth sets out the Government's approach to faster economic growth and increased living standards and opportunities for all New Zealanders.²⁵ It includes five pillars driving the push for economic growth:

1. Developing talent
2. Competitive business settings
3. Promoting global trade and investment
4. Innovation, technology and science
5. Infrastructure for growth.

Pillar 4 is focussed on ensuring the SI&T system is set up to deliver growth, investment and commercialisation. A key action is the establishment of the Prime Minister's Science, Innovation and Technology Advisory Council (PMSITAC) to provide advice on priorities for New Zealand science, innovation and technology, and the formation of Research Funding New Zealand.

The HRC's contribution to these goals includes prioritising investment to areas of emerging technologies; strengthening the

²³ <https://www.health.govt.nz/statistics-research/system-monitoring/health-targets>

²⁴ <https://www.health.govt.nz/statistics-research/system-monitoring/mental-health-and-addiction-targets>

²⁵ <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/economic-growth/going-for-growth>

pathway to commercialisation; building stronger connections between researchers, innovators and end users; aligning with the Government's Science Investment Plan; and supporting the transition of the HRC's functions to the SI&T system.

Vision Mātauranga

The mission of Vision Mātauranga is to unlock the innovation potential of Māori knowledge, resources and people to assist New Zealanders to create a better future.²⁶ The policy is embedded across all MBIE's priority investments with applicants asked to consider how their proposal will give effect to it and contribute to the outcomes. There are four themes within the Policy which provide strategic direction and they are:

1. **Indigenous innovation:** Contributing to economic growth through distinctive science and innovation.
2. **Taiao:** Achieving environmental sustainability through iwi and hapū relationships with land and sea.
3. **Hauora/Oranga:** Improving health and social wellbeing.
4. **Mātauranga:** Exploring indigenous knowledge and science and innovation.

MBIE supports the Vision Mātauranga policy through the He Ara Whakahiriko Fund.²⁷ The Fund makes investments to:

- increase understanding of how scientific research can contribute to the aspirations of Māori organisations and deliver benefit for New Zealand, with a focus on promoting economic growth, impact, implementation and partnerships, and
- strengthen capability, capacity, skills and networks between Māori and the SI&T system.

The HRC administers investment on behalf of the He Ara Whakahiriko Fund to support the Hauora/Oranga research Vision Mātauranga theme (refer to page 7 for further details).

MBIE Diversity in Science Statement

The Diversity in Science statement aspires to a vibrant and successful science and research base that reflects the diversity of New Zealand.²⁸

It recognises that diversity is vital for our SI&T system to realise its full potential and ensures New Zealand will capture the very best ideas and talent to support the highest quality research. The HRC supports the Statement with a focus on diversity among our Council, staff, committees, the research teams we fund, and utilises diversity metrics in our data reporting and accountability documents.

²⁶ <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/science-and-innovation/agencies-policies-and-budget-initiatives/vision-matauranga-policy>

²⁷ <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/science-and-innovation/funding-information-and-opportunities/investment-funds/he-ara-whakahiriko-capability-fund>

²⁸ <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/1263-diversity-in-science-statement>

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Health Research Council
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Te Kaunihera Rangahau Hauora o Aotearoa



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