

Rangahau Hauora Māori

Research Investment Stream

Kaupapa (Purpose)

To build an evidence base which contributes to Māori health gains, derived from high-quality Māori health research that upholds rangatiratanga and uses and advances Māori knowledge, resources and people.



Scope

The Rangahau Hauora Māori Research Investment Stream will support health research that values Māori worldviews and builds Māori research capacity and leadership. Research funded through this stream is expected to demonstrate rangatiratanga (Māori leadership), a commitment to the core values of mana, tika, manaakitanga and whakapapa^[i], and will recognise that Māori health research teams operate within the broader context of their communities.

Research that contributes to improving Māori health outcomes can be funded through any HRC Research Investment Stream; this document outlines the distinctive features of research in scope for Rangahau Hauora Māori.

Strategies that provide context for the scope, goals and research characteristics of this Research Investment Stream include *He Korowai Oranga: Māori Health Strategy* (Ministry of Health, 2002)^[ii], *Vision Mātauranga* (Ministry of Research, Science and Technology, 2005)^[iii], and the HRC strategy *Ngā Pou Rangahau: The Strategic Plan for Māori Health Research 2010 – 2015*^[iv].

The HRC encourages research that can contribute to a National Science Challenge, as well as research on any other health priority, provided it is within the scope of this Research Investment Stream.

Applicants are advised to read the [National Statement of Science Investment](#), the [New Zealand Health Strategy](#) and the [New Zealand Health Research Strategy](#).



Goals (including research characteristics)

All applications will be assessed on science quality and the extent to which the application has impact^[v]. The research methodology should be designed to maximise the relevance, use and impact of the research findings. To score highly against assessment criteria, proposals must explicitly demonstrate **all** of the following characteristics.

1. Contribute to the creation of Māori health knowledge

Research funded through this stream should build upon and extend existing understandings related to the improvement of Māori health outcomes, in the form of original, high-quality contributions.

2. Contribute to the translation of research findings into Māori health gains

The definition of 'health gain' is broad, and includes expansion of health and research knowledge. Research findings may contribute to health outcomes in the short-, medium-, or long-term. Translating research findings into health gains acknowledges the importance of the progression along the research pathway from the creation to the application of knowledge. As well as demonstrating plans for effective dissemination of results, proposals must identify an audience who will collaborate in the research process and use the research findings.

3. Incorporate Māori health research processes

Including, but not limited to, methodologies inspired by Māori world views and/or forms of mātauranga Māori (distinctive knowledge traditionally held within Māori communities). Proposals should demonstrate and affirm best practice application of Māori research principles, for example, kaupapa Māori methodology as described by the HRC^[vi], or other culturally appropriate methodologies. All projects funded under this stream should value tikanga (processes and protocol), engage the knowledge of iwi, hapū, whānau and Māori communities, and be responsive to Māori. The research process must be mutually beneficial for researchers and their communities and research results must be appropriately reported back to Māori communities.

4. Incorporate Māori ethics processes

Proposals must demonstrate understanding of tikanga Māori and its contribution to research. Proposals should be informed by guidelines provided by the HRC for researchers undertaking Māori health research^[vi, vii].

5. Contribute to building a highly skilled Māori health research workforce

The HRC recognises the important contribution that the Māori health research workforce makes to Māori health gains. Research funded through this stream is expected to be Māori led – that is, to have significant involvement of Māori as part of the research leadership and established mechanisms/processes for receiving significant, ongoing Māori advice. It is also expected to provide opportunities for capacity building of the Māori health research workforce.

6. Respond to the needs of, and work in partnership with, Māori stakeholders and communities

Māori have unique health needs^[viii] and the HRC recognises the importance of Māori identifying their own research priorities and undertaking research in diverse Māori communities. Proposals should recognise the importance of iwi, hapū, whānau and other Māori involvement in improving health and contributing to health research both as researchers and in partnership with researchers. Community-initiated research opportunities are encouraged.

What research is better aligned with other funding opportunities?

Research that does not have significant Māori involvement or research leadership and/or that involves Māori **only** as participants or a cohort group.

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- [i] The Health Research Council of New Zealand acknowledges that there are a diverse range of definitions of these terms and takes an open approach to their interpretation.
- [ii] Ministry of Health. 2013/14. *He Korowai Oranga Māori Health Strategy*. Wellington: Ministry of Health. health.govt.nz/our-work/populations/maori-health/he-korowai-oranga
- [iii] Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. (2007). *Vision Mātauranga*. Wellington: Ministry of Research, Science and Technology.
- [iv] Health Research Council of New Zealand. 2010. *Ngā Pou Rangahau: The Strategic Plan for Māori Health Research 2010-2015*. Auckland: Health Research Council of New Zealand.
- [v] Applicants are strongly advised to review the Assessment Criteria. Impact on the Research Investment Stream goals (including research characteristics) is one component which makes up the score for impact, worth 25 per cent of the overall score.
- [vi] Health Research Council of New Zealand. 2010. *Guidelines for Researchers on Health Research Involving Māori*. (Version 2) Auckland: Health Research Council of New Zealand.
- [vii] Pūtaiora Writing Group. 2010. *Te Ara Tika: Guidelines for Māori Research Ethics: A framework for researchers and ethics committee members*. Auckland: Health Research Council of New Zealand.
- [viii] Ministry of Health. 2015. *Tatau Kahukura: Māori Health Chart Book 2015*, 3rd Edition. Wellington: Ministry of Health.