

PHASE 2 RESEARCH INVESTMENT GUIDELINES

February 2019

Our Vision, Te Kitenga

Our vision is of Aotearoa New Zealand with equitable health outcomes and a substantially reduced burden of non-communicable diseases.

Tō mātou kitenga kia noho a Aotearoa New Zealand hei whenua he ōrite ngā putanga hua hauora mō te tangata, kia iti iho hoki ngā pīkauranga o ngā māuiui kāore e taea te tuku ki te tangata kē (Ngā NCD)

Research within Healthier Lives encompasses public and community health as well as clinical and laboratory science so a one-size-fits-all approach is neither practical nor desirable. These guidelines are therefore likely to be enacted differently by each project. Because they are guidelines rather than rules, applicants may provide convincing reasons why aspects of the guidelines are not relevant or helpful in a particular case. However, evidence of commitment to the spirit of these guidelines will be assessed at each decision-making stage in order to ensure that the Challenge addresses its mission and creates a legacy for New Zealand.

i. Undertaking excellent science for the benefit of New Zealand

All research funded by Healthier Lives must contribute directly to achieving our mission to reduce the burden of major non-communicable diseases (specifically cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity), and increase equitable health outcomes in New Zealand.

The Challenge will seek to fund significant pieces of work that can demonstrate:

- excellent science of international standing,
- potential to create a major impact and lasting legacy for the benefit of New Zealand.

ii. Assembling the best research teams

Healthier Lives is a collaborative research programme and, as such, all researchers and research teams funded by the Challenge are part of our programme.

The following considerations should be taken into account when assembling research teams:

- teams should ideally be multi-disciplinary and cross institutional;
- at least 0.2 FTE must be allocated for research leadership – and this may rise if the project is complex or leadership is shared across institutions;
- research for Māori and Pacific communities should be led (or co-led) by Māori and Pacific researchers;
- opportunities for capacity development should be built in where possible, including: leadership opportunities for Māori and Pacific researchers; and studentships or postdocs for emerging researchers, particularly in specialist fields where additional capacity is needed (eg health economics);

- team members should have a strong track record (relative to their length of experience) in: undertaking excellent science; collaborating with other research groups and stakeholders; and creating research impact.

iii. Striving to achieve equitable health outcomes

All research ideas and approaches will be viewed through an ‘equity lens’. They must be focussed on achieving the Challenge mission of ‘reducing the burden of major diseases’ and address the question: *how will this research contribute to reducing inequitable health outcomes in New Zealand?*

iv. Enacting a Treaty partnership and contributing to Vision Mātauranga

All research within the Challenge will demonstrate commitment to Treaty partnership and Vision Mātauranga, and should be compatible with the [Whānau Ora Outcomes Framework](#) (download PDF here). It is expected that research teams will:

- engage with Māori to identify priorities, approaches and solutions that are consistent with tikanga Māori;
- undertake research that contributes to indigenous health gain; and
- aim to produce mātauranga that is highly valued and used by Māori.

v. Co-designing research with next and end users

Co-design approaches within Healthier Lives range from authentic co-design of research with the ‘end users’ of research (ie individuals and communities) using a defined methodology of co-design to working closely with the ‘next users’ of research (ie health providers and policy makers) to set the research questions, undertake the research and implement the findings of research.

Authentic co-design with communities is a gold standard which offers the likelihood that research outcomes will be more effective, but it can be resource and time intensive. Not all research within Phase 2 needs to be *authentically* co-designed with communities. However, all research teams must clearly identify the level of co-design they are undertaking.

vi. Planning a pathway to implementation

All research teams should:

- find a partner interested in implementing the outcomes of the research, and engaging with them from the outset and throughout the life of the project;
- develop a project implementation plan;
- set aside a minimum of 10% of the project budget for evaluation;
- develop a project evaluation plan;
- work with the Challenge evaluation platform to develop common wellbeing and economic indicators and shared approaches to evaluation across Healthier Lives.

vii. Benefitting from international linkages

All research teams should identify international research teams who are willing and able to collaborate in order to share good practice and learn from each other. Such international linkages should ensure that research undertaken in New Zealand is well connected to cutting-edge research being undertaken elsewhere.

viii. Exchanging knowledge and being accountable

All research teams must:

- develop a project-level knowledge exchange plan;
- participate in Healthier Lives knowledge exchange activities;
- report regularly in accordance with Healthier Lives reporting requirements.