

Request for Proposals

June 2020



2020 Achieving equity for ageing Māori: Injury prevention, service access and injury rehabilitation

The Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) and the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) ('the funding partners') have formed a partnership to invest in innovative health research that will contribute evidence to help achieve equity for ageing Māori through improved injury prevention initiatives, addressing barriers to accessing ACC services, and effective injury rehabilitation.

Through this Request for Proposals (RFP), the funding partners are seeking to fund Māori health research that will address inequity in the healthcare system and contribute to improved health outcomes for ageing Māori. The RFP describes the research objectives and priority areas identified by the funding partners. Applicants will need to outline how their proposal addresses the RFP; provide a clear justification for the proposed approach; describe the research team's ability to deliver the specific components of the study; and provide a fully costed budget. Applicants must demonstrate how the proposal will be Māori-led through all stages of the study.

A total funding pool of \$1.5 million (exclusive of GST) is available to fund research projects of up to 24 months duration. Research proposals must address one or more of the three research priority areas. Funding partners expect that at least two of the three research priority areas will be funded; however, the full funding pool may be awarded to one exceptional proposal that addresses at least two of the three research priority areas.

It is anticipated that the contracted project or projects will begin as soon as practicable, with funding available for an immediate start (from March 2021). Proposals should be completed within a 24-month timeframe with study results available at study completion to inform decision-making at ACC. Access to ACC data for research proposals may be granted via the ACC Ethics Panel process.



1. Background

As Crown entities, both the HRC and ACC are mandated to improve the health and quality of life of all New Zealanders. For ACC, this is achieved through meeting statutory objectives such as reducing the incidence and severity of injury, providing effective rehabilitation for injured people, and maintaining sustainability of the unique social insurance scheme¹. ACC is committed to addressing healthcare inequity as part of the organisational practise to uphold *Te Tiriti o Waitangi* through the ACC Māori strategy, *Whaia Te Tika*². *Whaia Te Tika* aims to reduce barriers and disparities for Māori by improving scheme access, improving outcomes and experience for Māori, and promoting Mātauranga Māori as a source of innovation and creativity at ACC.

The New Zealand Burden of Diseases, Injuries and Risk Factors Study 2006-2016 found that Māori are twice as likely to experience injury-related health loss compared to non-Māori³. For Māori aged 15 to 64 years, injury is the second leading cause of disability⁴ and there are higher rates of hospitalisation and mortality due to unintentional injury⁵. Following injury, Māori experience disproportionately poorer outcomes than non-Māori⁶ despite accessing health and rehabilitation services. Similar patterns of inequity in injury prevalence and health outcomes have been reported among other indigenous groups internationally and this has been linked to wider systemic issues of inequity across the health system, including access to health services⁷.

Despite inequity in prevalence and outcomes for Māori following an injury, there is limited research investigating health outcomes for Māori⁸. This is especially the case for older Māori aged 65 and over. Recent ACC data show a consistent picture of inequity across the services that are reaching Māori. While Māori represent 14.6% of the total New Zealand population, only 11.6% of ACC claims between 2004 and 2009 were from this group. From the age of 50 onwards, Māori are much less likely to claim than their non-Māori counterparts.

The New Zealand population is ageing and by 2034 it is expected that almost a quarter of the population will be aged 65 and over. The ACC-HRC research partnership aligns with the current government priority to drive action that ensures all

¹ *Accident Compensation Act 2001*. (New Zealand). Available at:

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2001/0049/153.0/DLM99494.html> (Accessed: 25 February 2020).

² Te Kaporeihana Āwhina Hunga Whara/Accident Compensation Corporation. Statement of Intent 2018-2022; Service Agreement 2019/20.

³ Ministry of Health, Accident Compensation Corporation. *Injury-related Health Loss: A report from the New Zealand Burden of Diseases, Injuries and Risk Factors Study 2006–2016*. Wellington: Ministry of Health, 2013. Available at: [https://www.moh.govt.nz/notebook/nbbooks.nsf/0/C62EF09112754AFACC257BD30072F245/\\$file/injury-related-health-loss-aug13.pdf](https://www.moh.govt.nz/notebook/nbbooks.nsf/0/C62EF09112754AFACC257BD30072F245/$file/injury-related-health-loss-aug13.pdf) (Accessed 25 February 2020).

⁴ Statistics New Zealand. *He Hauā Māori – Findings from the 2013 Disability Survey*. Wellington (NZ): Statistics New Zealand; 2015.

⁵ Wyeth E, Samaranayaka A, Davie G, Derrett S. Prevalence and predictors of disability for Māori 24 months after injury. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*. 2017; 41:262-8; doi: 10.1111/1753-6405.12657

⁶ MacLennan B, Wyeth H E, Davie G, et al. Twelve-month post-injury outcomes for Māori and non-Māori: findings from a New Zealand cohort study. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health* 2014; 38(3):227–33. Available at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1753-6405.12228> (Accessed 25 February 2020).

⁷ Reid P, Robson B: *Understanding Health Inequities. In Hauora: Māori Standards of Health IV. A study of the years 2000–2005*. Edited by Robson B, Harris R. Wellington, New Zealand: Te Rōpū Rangahau Hauora a Eru Pōmare; 2007:3–10. Available at: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/wellington/otago067740.pdf> (Accessed: 25 February 2020).

⁸ Wyeth, E. H., Samaranayaka, A., Lambert, M., Tapsell, M., Anselm, D., Ellison, P. Derrett, S. (2018). Understanding longer-term disability outcomes for Māori and non-Māori after hospitalisation for injury: results from a longitudinal cohort study. *Public Health*.

New Zealanders recognise older people's potential and create opportunities for everyone to participate and be valued as they age. The *Better Later Life – He Oranga Kaumātua Strategy 2019 to 2034* has a focus on people 65 years and over, as well as the next generation of older people currently aged 50 to 64,⁹ which is a focus area for this partnership in terms of the evidence base that shows earlier onset of morbidity and mortality for Māori compared with non-Māori. The *He Oranga Kaumātua Strategy* also has a focus on the diversity of the experience of ageing Māori, including equity dimensions of disability, gender, geographical and socioeconomic background.

2. RFP Objectives

The key objectives of this RFP are to:

1. Fund innovative, high-quality and collaborative research that addresses health inequity for ageing Māori (i.e. Māori aged 65 years of age and over and the next generation of older Māori aged between 50 and 64 years of age), and is aligned with the Māori strategic objectives within the ACC Statement of Intent through *Whāia Te Tika*, including to:
 - increase the success of ACC's injury prevention activities with ageing Māori;
 - improve older Māori customer experience of ACC, specifically addressing access to services; and
 - improve injury rehabilitation and treatment to improve health outcomes.
2. Fund research that is Māori-led, collaborates with Māori communities and advances Mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge).
3. Ensure meaningful multidisciplinary engagement and partnership that facilitates collaboration between research teams, stakeholders and consumers and drives the creation of pathways for effective knowledge transfer.
4. Contribute to the evidence base within the scope of the RFP to address system-wide health inequity for Māori to support healthcare system responsiveness.
5. Identify, attract and build the Māori health research workforce to conduct high-quality research that meets the scope of this RFP.

3. Research Priority Areas

Applications submitted to this RFP must be within the following scope:

Research priority areas address gaps in the research evidence and reflect key challenges facing ACC where research may make an important contribution. Successful research projects will target one or more of the following research priority areas:

Priority area 1: Injury prevention

- Explore tikanga-based programmes or approaches to injury prevention for older Māori and the next generation of older Māori in partnership with communities.

⁹ The Office for Seniors (2019). *Better Later Life, He Oranga Kaumātua 2019 to 2034*. Ministry for Social Development: Wellington.

Priority area 2: Improve access to ACC services

- Address barriers to accessing ACC services for older Māori and the next generation of older Māori.

Priority area 3: Improve injury treatment and health outcomes

- Investigate Māori models of care, treatment and rehabilitation to improve health outcomes from injury for older Māori and the next generation of older Māori.

4. Funding

A total funding pool of \$1.5 million (exclusive of GST) is available to fund research projects of up to 24 months duration.

Research proposals must address one or more of the three research priority areas. Funding partners expect that at least two of the three research priority areas will be funded; however, the full funding amount may be awarded to one exceptional proposal that addresses at least two of the three research priority areas.

Funding will be available for an immediate start to the research (from March 2021). Please carefully consider the start date, as applicants will be held to what they have proposed.

Applicants should note that if competing proposals are equal in terms of their ability to embody Mātauranga Māori and their scientific value, the funding partners will consider best value for money offered by each proposal.

5. Proposal Requirements

Clear and coherently written applications are essential in allowing the Assessing Committee to read and assess applications submitted to this RFP.

Applicants must demonstrate how the proposal will be Māori-led through all stages of the study and actions they will undertake to advance Māori health through the life of the research. The HRC [Māori Health Advancement Guidelines](#) highlight the importance of ensuring that:

- relationships between health researchers and Māori are meaningful and reciprocal;
- research addresses issues of significance to Māori;
- research teams have the required skills and expertise to build capability and capacity of the Māori health research workforce; and
- research is conducted in a culturally appropriate manner.

Proposals must demonstrate the following:

- High-quality science, appropriately scoped to build the Mātauranga Māori knowledge base and relevant to the objectives of this RFP.
- Kaupapa Māori methodology that prioritises a Māori worldview and recognises the complexity of historical and contemporary realities.
- Theoretical framing of the research that is situated within the sociocultural, political and historical context of Aotearoa to address the power dynamics in

healthcare inequity, including consideration of the impact of colonisation on current drivers of healthcare inequity for Māori.

- Research underpinned by the principles of mana tāngata where it will meet the opportunities of *Tiriti o Waitangi* by embracing Māori leadership, Mātauranga Māori, research methods and concepts of health.
- Appropriate expertise and multidisciplinary collaboration in the composition of the research team to address the research question.
- A detailed project management plan for all stages of the research with clear milestones and associated timeframes for achieving the desired outcomes.
- Clearly articulated plans to engage Māori communities and build enduring relationships through the research with Māori.
- Clearly articulated plans for knowledge transfer to support communication and uptake of the research findings to a range of relevant audiences, including how key stakeholders will be engaged at different stages of the research project, particularly around communication and implementation of the results of the research. Plans should include intentions for research dissemination to Māori communities as well as in peer-reviewed journals, including open access journals.
- A plan for maximising research impact by contributing to the creation of Māori health knowledge, i.e. what are the anticipated benefits of the research, who will benefit, how will the project ensure that the research has an impact.
- An ability to achieve the research within the specified timeframe. The likelihood that the proposed study will be successfully completed within the stated timeframe will be specifically assessed. Applicants should consider the timeframe for obtaining ethical approval (if appropriate).
- The budget is appropriate for the proposed study.

6. Research Deliverables

Research deliverables will be confirmed with the selected research provider; however, deliverables will include the following:

- **Six-monthly progress reports** detailing progress of the research and highlighting any risks to its progress.
- A **final deliverable report** detailing results, key findings and recommendations of the complete programme of research. The report will also be required to include an outline of any planned knowledge transfer activities, including the processes or steps that will support uptake of the research findings.
- An **HRC end of contract report** upon completion of the research.

The research provider will also be required to provide **verbal presentations** on research progress and findings.

The research provider will complete and submit reports via the HRC's online reporting system.

7. Application Procedure

All application forms and guidelines are available via [HRC Gateway](#), the HRC's online application system. The **2020 Achieving equity for ageing Māori RFP Application Guidelines** provide full details on the application process summarised below.

Step 1: Registration

Applicants are required to submit a registration via [HRC Gateway](#) by **1pm on 12 August 2020**. This web-based form signals the intent of the applicant to submit a full application. The research title, all named investigators, host organisation and lay summary will be required. These details should be similar to those in the full application, although minor adjustments are allowed.

HRC Gateway will forward the submitted registration to the applicant's host Research Office, who will need to approve the registration and forward it to the HRC. For organisations without research offices, HRC Gateway will forward the registration to the HRC.

All named investigators must have an HRC Gateway account (*with an updated profile*), to be able to be included in an application. Creating an HRC Gateway account is easy and can be done by clicking on 'New user – sign up for HRC Gateway' on the HRC Gateway homepage (<https://gateway.hrc.govt.nz/>).

Step 2: Full Application

Applicants are then required to complete a full application. Full applications should be submitted via HRC Gateway by **1pm on 26 August 2020**.

Applicants should use the **2020 Achieving equity for ageing Māori RFP Application Form**, **2020 Achieving equity for ageing Māori RFP Budget Form**, and **New Zealand Standard CV template**.

HRC Gateway will forward the submitted full application to the applicant's host Research Office or designated research manager who will need to approve the full application and forward it to the HRC. For organisations without research offices or a research manager, HRC Gateway will forward the full application directly to the HRC.

HRC Gateway will create a PDF of the complete full application after submission.

Applicants must meet the deadlines above for their proposal to be eligible.

8. Assessment Procedure

The assessment process for the **2020 Achieving equity for ageing Māori RFP** is summarised below.

Step 1: Peer review

Full applications will be assessed through an external peer review process managed by the HRC. This involves comprehensive peer review by independent national and international experts.

Step 2: Applicant rebuttal

Applicants are given the opportunity to view the peer review reports for their application and provide a rebuttal to the comments made. This is not an opportunity to rewrite major sections of a proposal, but rather the opportunity to respond to specific reviewer comments, to answer questions raised by the reviewer or to clarify an issue for the Assessing Committee.

Step 3: Assessing Committee

An independent Assessing Committee will assess applications, taking into consideration the peer review reports and applicant rebuttal. The Assessment Criteria are outlined in **Appendix 2** of the **2020 Achieving equity for ageing Māori RFP Application Guidelines**. Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with these criteria.

Depending on the number of full applications, a triage process may be used to determine which applications will be discussed in full at the Assessing Committee meeting. This process would involve committee members scoring applications in advance of the meeting using the assessment criteria to yield a ranked list. The lowest-ranked applications based on the pre-scores would then be triaged and not discussed at the meeting.

The Assessing Committee will make recommendations for funding, to be considered and approved by the HRC and ACC. Applicants will be informed of final funding decisions in **February 2021**.

Key actions and dates for this initiative:

Action	Date
Registration due (via HRC Gateway)	12 August 2020 (1pm)
Full application due (via HRC Gateway)	26 August 2020 (1pm)
External peer review	September - October 2020
Applicant rebuttal opens	2 November 2020 (8am)
Applicant rebuttal due	13 November 2020 (1pm)
Applicants notified of outcome	February 2021

9. General Notes

Decision advice

No legal obligations will arise between the funding partners and applicants for this RFP until such time as the HRC enters into a contract with the successful applicant.

Privacy provisions

In the event that an application is successful, the HRC reserves the right to release applicants' names, details of the host institution/company, contact details (work phone or email), contract title and funding awarded for public interest purposes and to meet the statutory requirements of the *Health Research Council of New Zealand Act 1990*.

HRC Partnership Programme

This RFP is a component of the HRC's Partnership Programme. Through this programme, the HRC forms strategic partnerships with funders and stakeholders to target resources towards developing the evidence-base in key areas of need and strengthen the links between policy and practice. This collaborative approach to

research ensures that stakeholders get the answers to pressing questions but split the cost with multiple interested parties. The HRC's processes ensure that the track record of the research team, the scientific merit and the design and methods of the successful proposal are most likely to deliver the highest quality of evidence.

Enquiries

All enquiries related to the **2020 Achieving equity for ageing Māori RFP** should be directed to Lea Narciso, Research Investment Manager, Research Partnerships (09 280 3860 or lnarciso@hrc.govt.nz).