

Guiding Principles for Investment

What sort of research will we consider?

1. Take a broad holistic view of health research, including the physical and mental health and wellbeing, and social outcomes of veterans and/or their families

- Health is more than the absence of disease, and includes physical and mental health and wellbeing, and social outcomes (such as employment outcomes and family wellbeing).

2. Focus on research that aims to benefit the health of veterans and/or their families by informing policy and practice

- Research should have the potential to have a meaningful impact on policy or practice.
- A knowledge translation strategy should be included in any funding proposal.

3. Focus on contemporary veterans (from the 1990 Gulf War onwards)

- Substantial research has already been carried out on earlier cohorts of veterans. A focus on contemporary veterans (from the 1990 Gulf War onwards) will help to identify emerging health risks.
- Research projects could include the whole contemporary cohort or particular deployments or sub-sets of the cohort.

4. Focus on issues relevant to New Zealand

- There are many opportunities for New Zealand to learn from research conducted with veterans in countries such as the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, and Australia; we do not wish to replicate existing research.
- A focus on issues that are relevant to New Zealand will help to achieve real and meaningful policy and practice results for New Zealand veterans.
- Consulting with the key policy agencies that work with veterans (such as Veterans' Affairs and NZDF) prior to making funding decisions will help the Panel to ensure that investment will achieve maximum policy and practice results for New Zealand veterans.

What are we looking for?

5. Work collaboratively with other agencies, including Veterans' Affairs and the New Zealand Defence Force, to help ensure the relevance of research, optimise research design, leverage funding, and maximise the benefit for veterans

- A co-design approach to research, which identifies how research outcomes will have an impact on New Zealand veterans, will help to ensure the relevance of any research conducted.
- Research partnerships are encouraged, and where appropriate may be jointly funded (for example by making use of the Partnership Funding administered by the Health Research Council) to leverage the use of trust funds for maximum impact.

6. Build on existing research infrastructure and capability, including the Statistics NZ Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI)

- The IDI combines key administrative and survey data from across the public sector into a single anonymised dataset. It is an important tool for evidence-based policy evaluation and research in New Zealand.
- A key factor in assessing research proposals will be that the results of any funded research can be fed back into the IDI.

7. Align with the principles set out in the New Zealand Health Research Strategy 2017–2027

- The New Zealand Health Research Strategy 2017–2027 sets out a vision that, by 2027, New Zealand will have a world-leading health research and innovation system. There are four guiding principles for the system: research excellence, transparency, partnership with Māori and collaboration for impact. Given its over-arching strategy, research should align with the principles of the strategy.¹

What process will we follow?

8. Compliance with Government procurement guidelines will be a paramount consideration when making investment decisions

- Government procurement guidelines set standards for procurement for all bodies operating in the state sector who enter into contracts using public or government funding.

¹ The strategy was published on 22 June 2017 and is available as a PDF on the Ministry of Health website at <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/new-zealand-health-research-strategy-2017-2027-summary-submissions-and-consultation>.

- Compliance with these guidelines will be a matter of course when entering into contracts for research.
- The flexibility of the guidelines means they can be applied in a way that is suitable to the circumstances.