

AGEING
WELL

.....
Kia eke kairangi ki te
taikaumātutanga

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Contestable Round

March 2016

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1. Key information: Summary

- In recognition of the specific challenges and opportunities faced by Māori and Pacific Peoples to age well, the focus of the Ageing Well NSC 2016 Contestable Round is on **Māori and Pacific Peoples ageing**.
- Research on issues related to Māori and Pacific Peoples' ageing funded through this round will help to build upon and expand the scope and potential impacts from the initial portfolio of research projects, while ensuring new researchers and ideas are incorporated into the Challenge's work.
- Research can begin as soon as subcontracting is completed. All research will be expected to **begin by 1 February 2017** – including ethics applications submitted (or agreed) and budget ready for expenditure – and must **complete by 30 June 2019**, in line with the Challenge's funding.
- Expression of Interest (EOI) proposals should be led by New Zealand-based research organisations¹ (including the Principal Investigator) and be submitted by **noon on Monday, 16 May 2016**. Eols are requested by email to administrator.ageingwell@otago.ac.nz. Late applications will not be accepted.
- **Available funding:** \$3.25m in total, of which \$0.5m will be ring-fenced for a combination of feasibility/ pilot studies and full studies. \$0.25m will be ring-fenced to fund a Māori or Pacific post-doctoral researcher (for which overheads will not be paid, but a stipend and project costs will be included).
- All funded projects should relate to the [Challenge's high-level impacts](#) and [research strands](#) and the principles outlined in section 4.2 (p8).
- Brief biannual written progress reports will be expected from funded initiatives.
- **Funding benchmarks:**
 - Research teams will include co-funders being involved in research design from the early stages of the proposed project. Co-funders may provide in-kind funding².
 - The maximum grant will be **\$1m**, on the understanding that project leads attract an additional 20% (minimum) from co-funders/applicants, which can include in-kind funding over the course of the project;
 - Projects that do not attract the **20% minimum** level of co-funding are limited to a maximum award of **\$0.6m**;
 - PIs who attract a minimum of an additional **10%** of co-funding will be prioritised for Challenge funding. This prioritisation will be applied to any project (of any amount) up to **\$0.6m**, provided the co-funders are involved in the set-up and agreement of project design at any early stage.

¹ Being a legal entity based in New Zealand whose main business is research (and education in the case of Tertiary Education Institutes).

² In-kind funding in this instance could include the use of services and/or facilities, professional expertise (for instance, through staff time), provision of—or access to – equipment.

- **Assessment Criteria.** Proposals will be subject to a two-step assessment process by independent reviewers that will include colleagues from the Challenge's Kahui Group, International Science Advisory Panel and Science Leadership Team. Expressions of interest (EOI) and those invited to submit a full proposal will be assessed according to the following criteria:

1. The potential impact of the proposal (*including Vision Mātauranga, alignment with mission and impacts and influence/impact on Māori and Pasifika*)

2. Science stretch and innovation (*methodologically robust, novel, transformational, multidisciplinary*)

3. Stakeholder engagement and knowledge exchange (*co-creation, co-development, wider stakeholder engagement*)

- **Key dates:**

- **31 March 2016** – Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Ageing Well NSC Contestable Round released.
- Contestable Round Roadshows held in **Wellington** (11 April 2016); **Auckland** (12 April 2016); and **Dunedin** (18 April 2016). Full details are available from [here](#).
- **16 May 2016 (noon)** – Expressions of Interest (EOIs) submitted.
- **30 June 2016** – EOI outcomes communicated to project leads by, at which point successful EOI project leads will be invited to submit a full proposal.
- **22 August 2016 (noon)** – Full proposals submitted.
- **28 October 2016** – Notification of outcomes and funding decisions announced.
- **31 December 2016** – Subcontract negotiation and signing complete.
- **By 1 February 2017** – all funded proposals to be initiated.

2. The Ageing Well National Science Challenge: overview

Background

The Ageing Well National Science Challenge was formally launched on 4 March 2015 by Hon Steven Joyce, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment, and is based at the University of Otago's main campus at Dunedin.

The Challenge is a collaboration between the Universities of Otago (as Challenge Contractor), Auckland, Canterbury, Massey, Waikato, Victoria and Auckland University of Technology together with the Centre for Research Evaluation and Social Assessment and AgResearch. The researchers involved are a multidisciplinary mix, involved in social, demographic, policy, health services, public health, clinical and biomedical research. Their international linkages, together with the advice and support of a highly experienced International Science Advisory Panel, will ensure the Challenge delivers high quality research that is well linked with international activities.

More detailed information about the Challenge and our research is available through our [website \(www.ageingwellchallenge.co.nz\)](http://www.ageingwellchallenge.co.nz).

3. Challenge high-level impacts and research strands

Delivering the high-level impacts we aim to achieve from Ageing Well's research are as follows. Proposals will need to demonstrate how they are aligned to these impacts in their submissions:

- By 2025, national debate stimulated by Ageing Well research and associated stakeholder and public engagement has led to the development of a new government strategy to support maintenance of health and well-being of older New Zealanders.
- By 2025, local bodies across New Zealand recognise, and have incorporated into planning documents, the importance of age-friendly environments that facilitate engagement and participation by older New Zealanders and value their contributions to society and the economy.
- By 2025, the health and disability support needs of older Maori and their whanau, and Pacific Peoples will be met by appropriate, integrated health care and disability support services
- Ageing Well will develop transformative approaches to reducing the stark inequities in health and wellness outcomes that still exist for older Maori and Pacific Peoples, leading to a narrowing of the outcome gaps. The Challenge-derived approaches will be championed by key District Health Boards, before uptake nationally.
- By 2025, affordable housing strategies will have been introduced, that facilitate ageing in place, access to home equity and market diversity in housing options, as well as making available resources to assist older people make modifications to support timely planning for ageing in place.

- The work of the Ageing Well will deliver a relative reduction of people in residential care facilities in New Zealand, resulting from both reduced frailty and impact from debilitating conditions, and from innovative approaches to support ageing in place.

To help guide the development of our work programme against these high-level impacts, the Challenge has identified five research strands that will build the evidence base for the policies, technologies and interventions that are needed to achieve active ageing:

- Maintain wellness, independence and autonomy
- Promote social integration and engagement
- Value older people in all settings
- Reduce disability and the impact of disability
- Enhance age-friendly environment

Further information about these research strands and how the Challenge's funded projects are related to each is available in our revised [Research and Business Plan](#).

3.1 Gap analysis of Currently Funded Challenge Research

The Challenge's research strategy was influenced by a high-level analysis of important research gaps in the current funding envelope. The analysis included public consultation and revealed a variety of research areas that the Challenge could look to fund within the current RFP, subject to the prioritisation and principles outlined above. These are as follows:

Accessibility

- Age-friendly access to: public services; amenities; leisure; transport; and communications.
- Age-friendly hospitals, health services and treatment design and practice

Health and disease prevention/recovery

- Identifying and managing mental health problems in older age and reducing multisensory deficit in combination with poor mental health
- Bone fragility, fracture, and frailty
- Interventions to treat osteoarthritis, sarcopaenia and loss of physical function
- Understanding cognitive decline and delaying its effects on physical function
- Addictions and substance abuse in older people

Social Issues

- Identifying methods to ameliorate loneliness for older people of different cultural backgrounds

- Elder abuse – especially connections, impacts and solutions around financial and violence abuse and justice/preventative services
- Ageing in Place in the New Zealand context
- The social and intergenerational impacts of inequities for Maori and Pacific Peoples in latter years of life, and potential responses
- Positive ageing through bringing generations together and the different ways in which older people are valued (in different cultures), and how that value is expressed
- Further research on housing for older people including Papakainga housing and other marae/iwi housing

Technological issues

- Examine if/how personal computer and mobile technologies may be used to enhance health, supportive social networks and social engagement
- Older peoples connectivity in the digital age

Workforce, Employment and Economic/Financial issues

- Health economics and big data in relation to ageing
- Age-friendly work environments and employment and workforce

4 2016 Contestable Round: priorities and principles

4.1 Priorities

- [Vision Mātauranga \(VM\)](#) is critical to achieving the Ageing Well mission: to *push back disability thresholds to enable all New Zealanders to reach their full potential through the life course with particular reference to the latter years of life*. We recognise that the disproportionate burden of ageing falls on Māori and Pacific Peoples' populations and communities.
- This RFP is focused on those research proposals that examine the distinctive needs, issues and challenges of Māori and Pacific Peoples in relation to ageing well (Hauora/Oranga), and the incorporation of matauranga Māori to support the overall Ageing Well mission (Mātauranga). The RFP seeks a variety of approaches – including Māori and Pacific Peoples'-centred and Kaupapa Māori research – and collaboration with non-Māori and Pacific researchers.

4.2 Principles

All research funded through the 2016 Contestable Round will need to demonstrate the following principles in relation to the Contestable Round's focus on issues relating to Māori and Pacific Peoples' ageing:

- Detail how they will address the expectations for [Vision Mātauranga](#) within the Challenge.
- Help to bridge identified gaps in the current Challenge research portfolio aligned to its [high-level impacts](#).
- Align to the Challenge's vision and mission and be mission-led.
- Focused and designed to generate transformative impacts.
- Provide details of early engagement with end-users and key stakeholders in co-development of the research and for details about how relationships will be sustained throughout the research period.
- Be multidisciplinary and/or multi-sectoral in nature. (We will reserve the right to recommend that applicants who have separately submitted EOIs in related fields work together to submit a joint proposal, in order to maximise the opportunity of this funding round); and
- Ask, wherever possible and appropriate, for applications to be submitted that include meaningful amounts of partnership funding (including 'in kind') from another funder/stakeholder that are not "business as usual".

4.3 Additional Information

- The Ageing Well NSC Intellectual Property Plan is available from [here](#). If a proposal is funded, the subcontract will be asked for Intellectual Property plans that are aligned to, and not inconsistent with, the Challenge's Intellectual Property Plan.
- The Ageing Well NSC will treat all EOIs as confidential, subject to any legal requirements under the Official Information Act (1982) or any relevant law. Proposals will be viewed by Challenge staff, peer reviewers, members of the assessment panel(s) and the Governance Group and will be stored in an electronic folder accessible only to Challenge staff and IT staff.

Please note the following might be made available to the general public through the Challenge's website and wider communications:

- The names of successful applicants.
- The titles of the funded proposals, and the amount awarded.
- A lay summary of the funded proposal (provided by the applicant).
- Other information as agreed with the Challenge.