



Endeavour Fund

2020 INVESTMENT ROUND ROADSHOW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The questions received were:

Can we resubmit previously unsuccessful proposals and what is the likelihood of a resubmitted bid getting investment?

Rebids are accepted, but in any given round the proportion of rebids is not high. If you are resubmitting, make sure your resubmitted proposal is stronger, take into account any feedback and make sure you are keeping up-to-date with the latest research. Resubmitting bids with fatal flaws is not a good strategy. However, even if you are able to address weaknesses, the proposal may still not receive investment during the next round; it is a contestable fund, the competition is always fierce and the quality of proposals is improving each year.

How should we deal with identifying risk and mitigating those risks in a proposal?

A risk management plan is useful. Acknowledging risks and discussing mitigation strategies helps assessors understand how the proposed research would be successful if it was to receive investment.

With regard to regulator risk (working within regulatory frameworks), you don't have to have eliminated this risk, but you should show that you have taken the appropriate steps to mitigate this risk (e.g. interact with the regulator at the beginning to understand what their requirements are).

My proposal has health outcomes, how do I show it is still within scope of the fund?

The majority of benefits should not be to health (if they are then applying to other funders is more appropriate). You are required to code your research using ANZSRC codes. Consequently, your codes should show that the majority (>50%) of the research will not be health outcomes i.e. economic, societal or environmental if this is indeed the case. It should be clear in your narrative that the major outcomes are not health.

How do you decide what skills and experience are required in identifying "Protect and add value" (PAV) and "Transform" assessors?

Experience, peer esteem and recognition are important for both. Additionally, for PAV assessors it is very important to be able to understand the usefulness of the research for the sector and to understand science system. For Transform assessors they need to understand, and have been involved in: emerging sectors, entrepreneurial activities, sector 'disruption' and over the horizon research successes.



When the Science Board is considering the value of large proposals, how large is large?

There is no identified dollar value; the Science Board considers the largest proposals in any given round, so it depends on what other proposals have been submitted.

What is the current portfolio balance, how do we avoid areas of concentration/duplication?

MBIE has published the current investments in the portfolio by ANZSRC SEO (Socio-economic Outcome) codes on the website to assist in identifying possible areas of concentration.

In making its decisions, the Science Board considers what is in the current portfolio, plus the proposals that have been submitted in that round. If the Government doesn't want to invest in a particular area, it would be signalled to the Science Board in the Gazette Notice.

No areas of non-investment have been identified for the 2020 round (with the exception of the case where health benefits are the majority of the benefits of the proposed work).

Duplication is when several proposals are seeking funding for the same research. This does not happen very often, but being aware of what is happening in your sector will help you avoid this.

Do we need to include international capability in our team?

It comes down to what makes the most sense in your proposal to get the best possible team with the necessary expertise.

If the assessors are aware of a New Zealand based team you are not engaging with, they may question this, so be clear why you are including international capability in your team.