

New Zealand Research Information System (NZRIS)

Funder-Researcher Working Group Terms of Reference

Background

The New Zealand Research Information System (NZRIS) is the result of the 2016 Research, Science and Innovation Domain Plan. The establishment of a national research information system was the key action of the Domain Plan, which did a stocktake of research, science and innovation (RS&I) data and set out ways to improve this.

The development and operation of NZRIS is underpinned by a commitment to collaboration, co-governance and co-design with the RS&I sector. While the NZRIS programme is led by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), a strong partnership with the different stakeholders is fostered, including the Māori research community, to build NZRIS in a way that benefits all participants and users.

Purpose

The NZRIS Funder-Research Working Group is a broad cross-sector group that supports the implementation and future development of NZRIS.

The FRWG will:

- Provide advice, operational guidance and input to the implementation of NZRIS to the MBIE NZRIS team, and to the NSOG.
- Provide advice on the development and potential benefits of future phases of NZRIS.
- Provide opportunities for information sharing across different sectors and stakeholder groups.
- Act as a sounding board for NZRIS-related matters that affect the wider sector.

Functions

The FRWG is responsible for:

- Reviewing and providing options on implementation topics identified by NSOG, members of the group and other stakeholders, and the MBIE NZRIS team.
- Reviewing and developing data standards where necessary, for example the use of research outputs, in conjunction with NSOG.
- Presenting information on the implementation of NZRIS from an organisation, researcher, or other stakeholders.
- Providing inputs to the NZRIS development work programme, design of training programmes and other activities, and feedback on various NZRIS outputs.
- Defining sector-wide issues and alternative courses of action, and making recommendations for consideration and decision by the NSOG.

The group may form sub-groups to work on particular topic areas in order to develop the outputs or outcomes needed.

The FRWG will also provide advice on the government e-CV if this is initiated.

Membership

FRWG membership is deliberately broad to ensure that the range of implementation and development topics can be appropriately covered. This means that attendees to a meeting will be subject to the agenda of that meeting.

The membership is designed to ensure the group has the ability to represent the interests of funders, research organisations and researchers including Māori researchers and organisations, and potential end-users such as iwi, business, government and communities.

Members will be drawn from the following organisations and sectors:

- The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)
- The Royal Society Te Apārangi
- The Health Research Council of New Zealand
- The Ministry for Primary Industries
- The Tertiary Education Commission and the Ministry of Education (policy)
- Callaghan Innovation
- Statistics New Zealand
- Department of Internal Affairs
- University sector
- Crown Research Institute (CRI) sector
- Independent Research Organisations (IRO)
- Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics
- Wānanga

The group have members who possess a range of skills, competencies and experience in domains such as:

- Communications and engagement
- Technical specifications and requirements
- Commercial considerations such as legal requirements and those of business
- Organisational culture relating to data ownership and consent

Members will participate in their own right rather than representing the interests of their organisation.

Membership of sub-groups may include individuals not part of the FRWG to draw on specialist expertise.

Meetings

The FRWG meets at least three (3) times a year in Wellington. The MBIE NZRIS Team serves as Secretariat who will assist with the running of the meetings and write up the minutes after each meeting.

The group collectively agrees on a roster of assigned chairperson for each meeting.

An external facilitator may assist with the running of the meetings if required.