



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Dr Shane Reti	Portfolio	Science, Innovation and Technology
Title of Cabinet paper	Transitioning health research funding from the Health Research Council to Research Funding New Zealand	Date to be published	9 April 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
November 2025	Transitioning Health Research Funding from the Health Research Council to Research Funding New Zealand	Offices of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology, and of the Minister of Health
12 November 2025	Transitioning Health Research Funding from the Health Research Council to Research Funding New Zealand ECO-25-MIN-0185 Minute	Cabinet Office
5 November 2025	Future of Health Research Funding: Decision Making and Allocation RIS	MBIE and MOH
5 November 2025	RIS Annex 2 - Cost Recovery for a Fast-track Research Ethics Review Process	MBIE and MOH
3 December 2025	RIS Quality Assurance Feedback Form and QA Criteria	MBIE and MOH
14 August 2025 – 5 November 2025	Briefings on the Future of Health Research Funding	MBIE and MOH

Information redacted

YES

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified and that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld under the grounds of commercial information, confidential advice to Government, and confidential commercial information (trade secret).



Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Transitioning Health Research Funding from the Health Research Council to Research Funding New Zealand

Portfolio **Health / Science, Innovation and Technology**

On 12 November 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO):

- 1 **noted** that in September 2025, ECO agreed in principle that the Research Funding New Zealand (RFNZ) remit will include health research, subject to a suitable transition strategy for the Health Research Council (HRC) [ECO-25-MIN-0147];
- 2 **agreed** to disestablish the HRC and redistribute its responsibilities to RFNZ, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and the Ministry of Health, as set out in Annex One to the paper under ECO-25-SUB-0185;
- 3 **agreed** to update the ethics regime for health research by:
 - 3.1 requiring all human research to comply with the National Standard on Ethical Conduct in Human Research;
 - 3.2 tasking the National Advisory Committee on Health and Disability Support Services Ethics with issuing and maintaining the National Standard on Ethical Conduct in Human Research;
- 4 **agreed** to provide a discretionary power allowing fees to recover the cost of ethical review to be set by Order in Council on the recommendation of the Minister of Health;
- 5 **noted** that in June 2025, ECO agreed to create a Science, Innovation and Technology (SI&T) Bill to give effect to a package of proposals enabling, among other things, funding decision-making bodies to be rationalised and required to respond to Government priorities [ECO-25-MIN-0088];
- 6 **agreed** that the proposals in paragraphs 2 to 4 above be progressed through the SI&T Bill referred to in paragraph 5 above;
- 7 **invited** the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the decision in paragraph 6 above;
- 8 **authorised** the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology and the Minister of Health (the Ministers) to make decisions on minor and technical matters that may arise during the drafting process;

- 9 **authorised** the Ministers to make decisions, consistent with the above paragraphs, on any issues which arise during the drafting process;
- 10 **agreed in principle** that the detailed transfer of functions, and resources to support those functions, will be effected through a detailed transition plan to be agreed by the Ministers;
- 11 **noted** that in Budget 2025, Cabinet authorised the Minister of Finance and Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology to agree further reprioritisation decisions after Budget 2025 to continue the implementation of the SI&T reforms [CAB-25-MIN- 0126.08];
- 12 **authorised** the Minister of Finance, Minister of Health, and Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology, jointly, to confirm any fiscally neutral transfers required once the detailed transition plan is agreed;
- 13 **noted** that the Health and Society Pillar Investment Plan (PIP) will become the primary mechanism for ministerial direction of health research funding in the future system;
- 14 **noted** that a revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministers will set out roles and responsibilities for health research governance, including the development and monitoring of the Health and Society PIP.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Mark Patterson
Hon James Meager
Hon Scott Simpson
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of Hon Chris Bishop
Officials Committee for ECO