Healthy People and a Thriving Society

Total investment

$191m

per year by 2029/30 (from forecast $242m in 26/27)

Expected contributions:

- Enable longer, healthier and more participatory lives
- Support smarter, more sustainable communities, social and health systems
- Build inclusive human capital and societal resilience
- Establish NZ as globally recognised, trusted environment for real-world testing
- Translate clinical research and medical innovation into improved diagnosis, treatment and care

Cross Pillar Alignment: The **Healthy People and a Thriving Society** Pillar is the primary home for health- and society-related research. It links to **Technology for Prosperity** for technology-led research and **Environmental Sustainability and Resilience** for research centred on environmental systems, risks and hazards. This Pillar focuses on the related health, wellbeing and societal impacts.

TfP = Technology for Prosperity

PI&B = Primary Industries and Bioeconomy

ES&R = Environmental Sustainability and Resilience

H&S = Healthy People and a Thriving Society

HPTS 1 | Large | Earlier intervention and disease prevention

Research improves understanding of disease drivers, enabling earlier intervention, prevention and better long-term health outcomes.

Invest in science that:

- Strengthens population and longitudinal studies to modify disease drivers
- Connects longitudinal studies and national datasets to improve health and social outcomes.
- Improves prevention and early-intervention strategies, particularly for children and young people
- Supports Māori and pacific leadership and community partnered research to strengthen community health and social outcomes.

Focus on evidence for early intervention and prevention, not treatment. Strong links to social determinants and community wellbeing.

HPTS 2 | Large | Longer, healthier and more productive lives

Reduce the burden of high-prevalence physical and mental health conditions through fundamental, discovery and translation research.

Invest in science that:

- Improves prevention of high-burden conditions.
- Develops innovative diagnostics and treatments.
- Explores social determinants of health, with a focus on extending healthy and productive life expectancy and strengthening communities.
- Develops Māori and Indigenous approaches to preventing and treating high-burden physical and mental health conditions.

Focus on advancing clinical and biomedical public health research to address high-burden conditions and broader health determinants.

HPTS 3 | Large | Biomedical innovation for health and prosperity

Biomedical innovation strengthens pathways from discovery to diagnostics, therapeutics, clinical use and commercial growth.

Invest in science that:

- Advances translational health research through early-stage evidence, prototypes and validation towards commercial partnerships and clinical use.
- Expands clinician-led research, early clinical validation and testing capability to support industry investment and clinical adoption.

Focus on early-stage translation – turning biomedical discoveries into evidence, prototypes and clinical validation that support industry partnership, clinical adoption and economic value creation.

HPTS 4 | Medium | Improved societal resilience, equity and productivity

Research strengthens social, education and workforce systems that support long-term wellbeing and prosperity.

Invest in science that:

- Strengthens social responses and community resilience to major economic, environmental and societal shocks.
- Promotes equitable long-term social outcomes and social cohesion.
- Builds education, workforce capability and healthy work environments to lift productivity.
- Advances Māori and Pacific leadership, education, research and workforce capability to support a prosperous and resilient future.

Focus on equitable social outcomes, education and workforce capability, and community resilience.



HPTS 5 | Large | Smarter, more efficient health and social services

Evidence supports better models of care, improving access, efficiency and health system performance.

Invest in science that:

- Develops and evaluates new approaches, technologies, tools and models of care to improve outcomes, service delivery and system efficiency.
- Strengthens self-care and primary, community, Māori, Pacific, iwi, disability and ethnic care to enable earlier diagnosis and treatment and reduce health-system pressure.
- Improves access to information, decision support, care coordination, and patient and whānau navigation.
- Develops workforce innovations that improve service quality, efficiency, staff experience and effectiveness.

Focus on evidence-based models of care and workforce innovation that improve access, outcomes and health-system efficiency.

HPTS 6 | Small | Human-centred health innovation

Human-centred research improves safe, trusted and equitable adoption of new health technologies.

Invest in science that:

- Identifies enablers and barriers to trusted, equitable and effective uptake of digital health technologies.
- Improves human-centred design and testing of digital tools, devices and technology-enabled services.

Focus on human-centred design, testing and uptake of digital health technologies to ensure technology-enabled care is safe, trusted, equitable and responsive to user needs.