



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

2027 Transition Research Fund Webinar and Q&A

Talent Development Mechanism

15 October 2026





MBIE Karakia

Tāwhia tō mana kia mau, kia māia

Ka huri taku aro ki te pae kahurangi,
kei reira te oranga mōku

Mā mahi tahi, ka ora, ka puāwai

Ā mātau mahi katoa, ka pono, ka tika

TIHEI MAURI ORA

TRANSLATION:

Retain and hold fast to your mana, be bold, be brave

We turn our attention to the future, that's where the opportunities lie

By working together we will flourish and achieve greatness

Taking responsibility to commit to doing things right

TIHEI MAURI ORA

MĀIA
BOLD & BRAVE

**PAE
KAHURANGI**
BUILD OUR FUTURE

MAHI TAHI
BETTER TOGETHER

**PONO
ME TE TIKA**
OWN IT



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
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Transition Research Fund Team

Talent Development mechanism



Alan Coulson

Fund Manager



Heather Penny

Co-Fund Manager for
Talent Development
mechanism



Emily Chapman

Co-Fund Lead



Kate Sloane

Co-Fund Lead



Jessica Bratt

Mechanism Lead –
Talent Development



Talent Development mechanism - outline

- ❑ Overview of Talent Development mechanism
 - ❑ Key documents and timeline
 - ❑ Assessment and decisions
 - ❑ Preparing the application
 - ❑ Accessing Pītau
 - ❑ Recommendations to applicants
- 

Overview of Talent Development mechanism



Purpose of Talent Development mechanism

Purpose

- **Develop emerging and future leaders aligned to national priorities** who can conceive, lead and scale the next generation of research.
- **Develop specialist capability in new areas**, particularly in advanced technology and aligned to national priorities.
- **Support early career researchers and other potential future research leaders looking to pivot into a new research area** that is a priority for New Zealand.

Good fit

- You are an early career researcher in the technology sector.
- You are an emerging or future leader in the technology sector.
- You are a researcher looking to apply their expertise in new areas aligned with the Technology for Prosperity Pillar.

May be a better fit elsewhere

- Research outside of the Technology for Prosperity Pillar priorities does not align to the 2027 Talent Development mechanism.



Funding available



Indicative \$12.3m (excluding GST) of new annual funding available



2 year contract duration



\$0.5m total contract value per funded proposal



Indicative total of 40 - 50 proposals to be funded through the Technology for Prosperity Pillar



How does Talent Development differ to the other mechanisms?

TALENT DEVELOPMENT	PROJECTS	PROGRAMMES
• Focusses on developing an emerging or future research leader • About capability development • Contract – fixed at \$500,000 for 2 years	• Enables testing of bold and innovative research ideas • Supports small proposals and teams testing new ideas, methodologies and capabilities • Contract – fixed at \$1.5M for 3 years	• Research is larger, more complex and multi-year. Involves multiple partners and collaborations • Has high potential to positively transform New Zealand's future • Contract – minimum of \$1M per year for 5 years. No fixed upper limit contract value



Alignment to National Pillar Priorities

	Technology for Prosperity	Primary Industries and Bioeconomy	Environmental Sustainability and Resilience	Healthy People and a Thriving Society
Funding available	\$12.3m			
Indicative number of proposals funded	~40-50 contracts			



Eligibility criteria

For a proposal to be eligible under the 2027 Transition Research Fund, it must:

- be made under an investment mechanism specified in the Schedules to this notice;
- align to one of the pillars, and to one of the pillar priorities listed as opportunities, as outlined in the Science Investment Plan;
- be made by an applicant who is not in material breach of any Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) science funding contract and who does not have any outstanding remedial actions associated with any termination of any MBIE science funding contract;
- be submitted in Pītau (MBIE's Investment Management System) and meet any applicable timing, formatting, content, or other administrative requirements set by MBIE;
- not name a person as Principal Investigator for a Talent Development proposal who is named as Principal Investigator on another Talent Development proposal submitted for the 2027 Transition Research Fund Talent Development mechanism;
- be made by a New Zealand-based Research Organisation or a New Zealand-based legal entity representing a New Zealand-based Research Organisation;
- be designed so that the new knowledge created is broadly disseminated for public benefit outside of the Research Organisation or legal entity that represents the Research Organisation;
- not be made by:
 - an entity listed in any of the parts of Schedule 2 of the Public Service Act 2020;
 - a local authority as defined in section 5 of the Local Government Act 2002;
 - the New Zealand Police;
 - New Zealand Defence Force; or
 - the Parliamentary Counsel Office;
- be for research, science or technology, or related activities, the majority of which are to be undertaken in New Zealand, unless the Board considers that there are compelling reasons to consider the proposal, despite the amount of research, science or technology or related activities being proposed to be undertaken overseas;
- not benefit a Russian state institution (including but not limited to support for Russian military or security activity) or an organisation outside government that may be perceived as contributing to the war effort;
- advise that the proposed funding recipient will, and the Board must be of the view that it can, adhere to the terms and conditions of funding set out in an investment contract determined by the Board;
- not be for activities already funded from another external source;
- come within the total organisational funding Cap that applies to the proposal;
- not include out-of-scope research outcomes related to defence that amount to 50% or more of the proposal's outcomes.
- Proposals determined to be ineligible by the Board under clause 7 cannot be awarded funding.



Organisational caps

Registrations

- Organisations may submit registrations up to 120% of their published organisational proposal cap, rounded up to the next whole number.
- If the limit is exceeded, MBIE will retain registrations in submission time stamp order, beginning with the earliest submissions.

Proposals

- Organisations may submit no more proposals than their published organisational cap.
- If the cap is exceeded, MBIE will accept proposals in submission time stamp order, beginning with the earliest submissions. Proposals above the cap will not be considered.

Please check the [TRF 2027 web page](#) for the cap which applies to your organisation

Any new organisation may submit up to three proposals per mechanism



Key documents and timeline



Key documents



Science Investment Plan 2026–2036 (SIP)

Sets the national priorities, pillars and priority opportunities that proposals must align to.



Pillar Investment Plans 2026–2031 (PIP)

Translates the strategic priorities from the SIP into 5-year outcomes that proposals must align to.



Transition Research Fund Investment Plan 2027

Explains the purpose of the Fund, the three mechanisms, investment signals and portfolio approach.



2027 Transition Research Fund Gazette Notices

Sets the eligibility criteria, assessment criteria, funding values and duration of investments.



Call for Proposals

Provides detailed applicant guidance, submission requirements and key dates.



Registration and Proposal Templates

Show the information required at registration and proposal stage, including word limits.

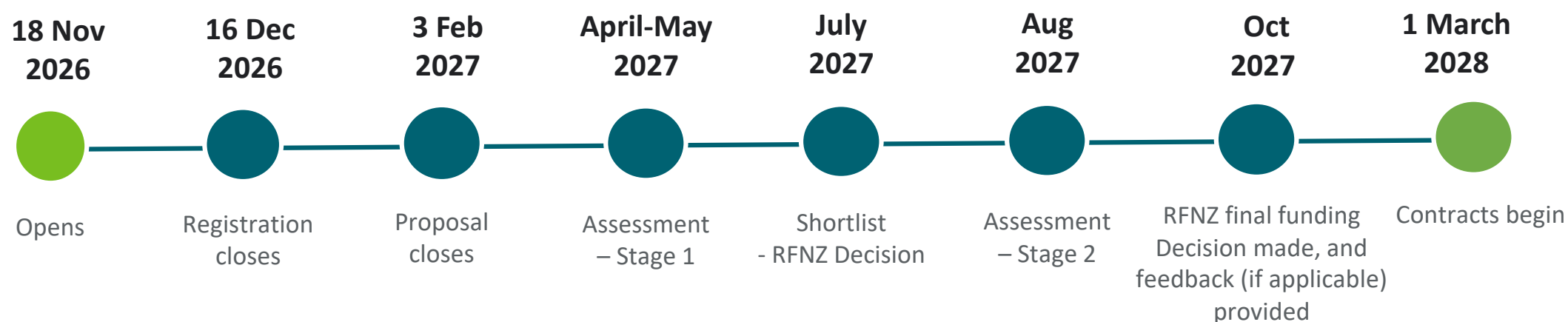


Assessment and Scoring Guidance

Explains how proposals will be assessed against the assessment criteria.



Application, assessment and decision-making timeline



Two stage assessment process:

Stage 1: external assessment through College of Assessors (3 per proposal)

Stage 2: Panel review of shortlisted proposals

Note: dates are subject to change



Assessment and decisions



College of Assessors

- Each Talent Development proposal is assessed by three independent assessors selected from the College of Assessors.
- Assessors are selected based on relevant expertise, experience and conflicts of interest.
- Principal Investigators named on Transition Research Fund proposals will be added to the College of Assessors.
- Being added does not mean a person will automatically receive an assessment assignment.
- Researchers with relevant expertise are encouraged to join the College of Assessors
- Further information is available on the MBIE College of Assessors webpage



Assessment criteria

Impact (33%)

The extent to which the proposed research has the potential to deliver meaningful outcomes for New Zealand's economic, social or environmental benefit, appropriate to the applicant's discipline and career stage.

Science Excellence (33%)

The extent to which the proposed research is fit for purpose, rigorous innovative, ethically conducted and internationally benchmarked, and addresses areas of clear national need.

Talent Potential (34%)

The extent to which the Principal Investigator demonstrates existing research capability and future potential, and the likelihood that the proposed outputs will be achieved. This will be considered relative to opportunity and their research discipline and career stage.



What Assessors are looking for?

Impact (33%)

- Meaningful alignment with the Technology for Prosperity Pillar Priorities
- Credible potential benefits and pathways to impact and potential pathways to impact
- Capability building
- Appropriate consideration of Vision Mātauranga

Science Excellence (33%)

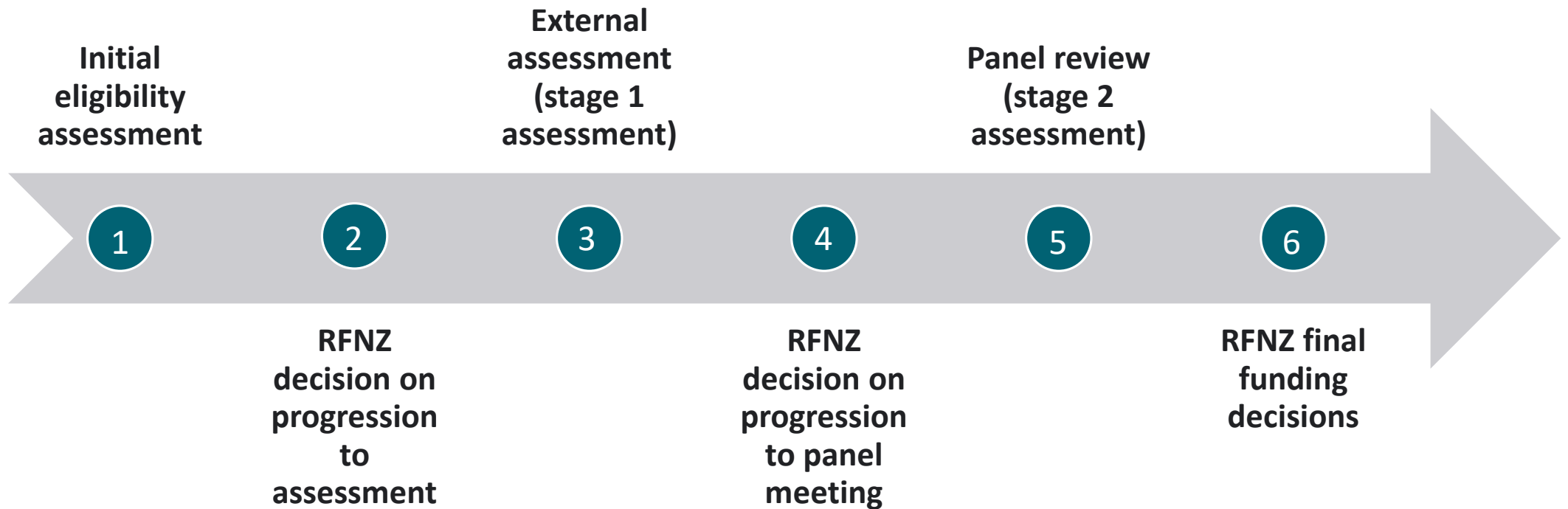
- Ambitious, new to New Zealand and fit for purpose
- New knowledge, data, methods or novel outcomes
- A coherent and credible research plan
- Appropriate risk identification and management
- Strong domestic and international positioning
- Appropriate consideration of Vision Mātauranga

Talent Potential (34%)

- The Principal Investigator has an appropriate mix of skills, experience and capability
- Clear and credible career development intent
- Appropriate organizational support, such as mentorship



Assessment and decision process



Feedback to applicants

- Feedback will be provided to all unsuccessful applicants who progressed to assessment stage
- Applicants whose proposals progress to the Panel meeting but who are not funded will receive the Panel's consensus comments
- Feedback will be sent after funding results are announced
- No feedback will be provided for funded proposals



Preparing the application



Registration

Applicants must submit a registration before a proposal can be lodged

What can't be changed after Registration

- Start and end date
- Total funding requested
- Research keywords
- Field of Research (FoR) codes
- Socio-Economic Objective (SEO) codes

What can be changed after Registration

- Title
- Administrator details
- How the Proposal Aligns to the Pillar
- Principal Investigator information

Other important Registration information

- Assessor Nomination (is Registration-stage field only)
- Check all information very carefully, particularly what cannot be changed at Proposal stage.



Proposal template - overview

1. Key Information

- Executive Summary
- Public Statement

2. Classifications

- How your proposal aligns to the Technology for Prosperity Pillar (400 words)

3. Performance Area

- Impact (500 words)
- Science Excellence (500 words)
- Talent Potential (500 words)

4. Resources

- Project Team (Principal Investigator 0.40FTE minimum per year)

5. Financial Information

- MBIE Requested Funding set at \$0.5m in total
- Co-Funding and Subcontracting

6. Other Information

- IP Management
- Special Ethical and Regulatory Requirements
- Sensitive Technologies



Accessing Pītau



Accessing Pītau

We will set up one initial Organisation Administrator

- This person will be responsible for adding additional user access.

Levels of access:

- **Organisation Administrator:** authority to **create** and **submit** applications. Manage access to Pītau.
- **Organisation Member:** can **create** and/or **work on** applications to which they are given access.

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Pītau Request for Access form

Pītau is MBIE's Investment Management System – a secure online portal used to:

- apply for funding
- manage your funding contracts
- submit funding reports
- submit invoices and expenses associated with funding contracts
- perform assessments.

If you are new to Pītau, you can request access in one of two ways:

1. If your organisation has applied for MBIE funding before, contact your Research Office or Organisation Administrator as they should be able to give you access.
2. If your organisation has never applied for MBIE funding, complete the details below and email it to imssupport@mbie.govt.nz.

If you are unsure if your organisation already has access, complete the form and email to us and we will let you know.

We will process your Request for Access form within 2 working days. Once your access has been processed, you will receive an email with login instructions and a unique Pītau activation code. To complete the login process, you will need a RealMe account. If you have an existing RealMe account please use it. If you do not have a RealMe account, you will be directed to create one. Please note this does not have to be a verified account.

Questions with an * are mandatory

Organisation details	
The organisation submitting the application.	
* Organisation full legal name As per the Companies/NZBN Register (if applicable)	
Full trading name (if different)	
New Zealand Business Number NZBN (if applicable)	
Other registration number, for example, charities/Society/Trust Number (if applicable)	

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* Type of entity (legal status) for example, Company, Charitable Trust, Incorporated Society, etc.	
GST number	
* Physical address	
* Postal address (if different from above)	
Website address	
Office phone number	
* Office email address (if applicable)	
What fund/grant are you applying for?	

The contact person entered on this form will be the administrator for your organisation. They must have authority to submit applications for funding to MBIE on behalf of your organisation. They will also manage Pītau access for other people within your organisation.

Contact Person/Organisation Administrator	
Person who will be submitting your first application, and who can manage Pītau portal access for other users in your organisation.	
* Salutation (Ms, Mr, Mx, Dr etc.)	
* Full name	
* Title or position	
Mobile phone number	
* Email address	

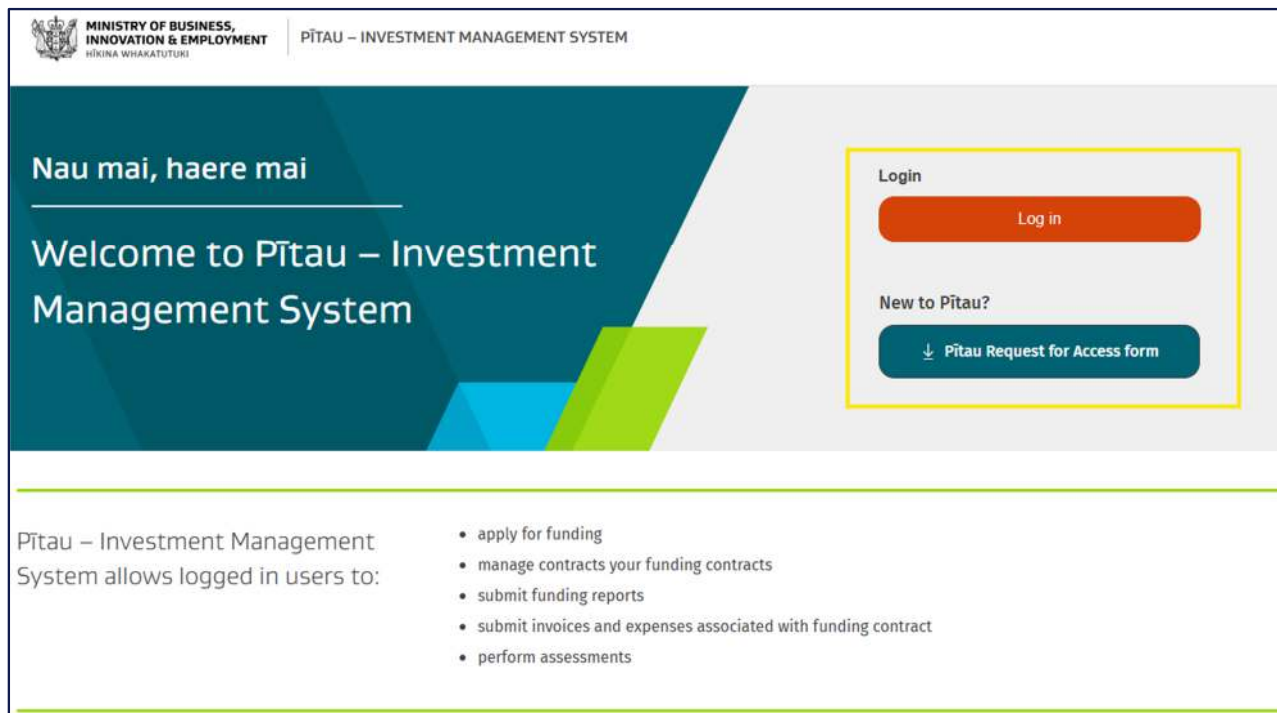
Accessing Pītau

If you need access to Pītau:

- Complete the Request for Access form, located on the [Pītau portal webpage](#)
- Email the completed form to: imssupport@mbie.govt.nz

Apply for access **EARLY**

- We cannot guarantee requests will be processed the week of submission.



The screenshot shows the login page for the Pītau – Investment Management System. At the top left is the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment logo with the text 'HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI'. To its right is the text 'PĪTAU – INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM'. The main header area has a dark blue background with the text 'Nau mai, haere mai' and 'Welcome to Pītau – Investment Management System'. On the right side, there is a login box with a yellow border. Inside this box, there is a 'Login' section with an orange 'Log in' button, and a 'New to Pītau?' section with a blue button labeled '↓ Pītau Request for Access form'. Below the header, a green horizontal line separates the main content from the footer. The footer contains the text 'Pītau – Investment Management System allows logged in users to:' followed by a bulleted list of user actions.

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PĪTAU – INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Nau mai, haere mai

Welcome to Pītau – Investment Management System

Login

Log in

New to Pītau?

↓ Pītau Request for Access form

Pītau – Investment Management System allows logged in users to:

- apply for funding
- manage contracts your funding contracts
- submit funding reports
- submit invoices and expenses associated with funding contract
- perform assessments

Helpful hints for Pītau



Logging into Pītau requires two-factor authentication. The options are Microsoft or Google authenticators, or a RealMe login. RealMe login does not need to be verified.



Allow plenty of time to work in Pītau - Complete your Request for Access form early. Give your team time to set up their two-factor authentication and provide diversity information.



When adding key personnel to your application, search for them by full name (and preferred name, if applicable), before creating a new contact.



Add an extra Organisation Administrator if possible.



For additional help contact IMS Support: imssupport@mbie.govt.nz | 0800 693 778 (Monday to Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm)



Recommendations to applicants



For you to note

- Ensure to stay within your organisational cap (check in with your Research Office)
- Start your application early
- Talent Development is aimed at developing new research leaders, not supporting established research leaders
- Ensure your Public Statement accurately reflects your proposal
- Ensure proposal titles are informative and accurately reflect the aims of your proposal
- Ensure the Talent Development mechanism is the right fit for your proposal
- Ensure to select appropriate FOR and SEO codes
- Where Vision Mātauranga is relevant, ensure it is appropriately resourced
- Be selective and specific in identifying conflicts of interest



What MBIE can and cannot help with

MBIE can help with

- **Published requirements**
Point to the relevant Gazette notices, Call for Proposals, templates and guidance
- **Application process**
Explain Registration and Proposal submission process and key dates
- **Pītau support**
Help with access and system-related questions
- **Administrative clarification**
Clarify where information should be entered

MBIE cannot

- **Determine eligibility before submission**
For example, confirm that a proposal is eligible
- **Select a pillar for an applicant**
For example, advise which pillar is most competitive
- **Develop or review proposal content**
For example, comment on a draft response
- **Predict an assessment or funding outcome**
For example, say whether RFNZ will fund the proposal
- **Provide one-to-one strategic application meetings**
A fair and equitable process must be maintained



Contact

If you have any questions about applications, please contact your host organisation's research office in the first instance.

You can contact MBIE at transitionfund2027@mbie.govt.nz if:

- your organisation does not have a research office
- your organisation's research office cannot assist you

Pītau queries: imssupport@mbie.govt.nz

Phone: 0800 693 778 (Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm)

You can also [subscribe to our Alert e-newsletter](#).



Questions? | Pātai?

Use the Q&A function





MBIE Closing Karakia

Ka hiki te tapu
Kia wātea ai te ara
Kia turuki ai te ao mārama
Hui ē, Tāiki ē

TRANSLATION:

*Restrictions are moved aside
So the pathway is clear
To return to everyday activities
Enriched and unified.*

MĀIA
BOLD & BRAVE

**PAE
KAHURANGI**
BUILD OUR FUTURE

MAHI TAHI
BETTER TOGETHER

**PONO
ME TE TIKA**
OWN IT



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