

News Release



15 May 2009

Feasibility studies for health research announced

Five feasibility awards announced by the Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) today will investigate the feasibility of establishing larger public health and clinical research projects.

The HRC is the principal Government agency responsible for funding health research in New Zealand.

One million dollars is allocated from the HRC's Investment Strategy to fund Feasibility Studies in the fields of public health or clinical research.

Of the five that have received funding, one was Maori health research, one was clinical research, and three were public health research.

"The studies are important ground work that will help decide if larger investment in these particular projects is warranted," says HRC Chief Executive Dr Robin Olds.

Feasibility Studies are carried out to test issues affecting a planned, larger study. The projects address whether the proposed choice of methodologies is appropriate, the likelihood of obtaining valid results, and acceptability in a population. Application for these awards all include a description of how the full study protocol depends on information to be collected in the Feasibility Study. There is a budget limit of \$150,000 over a maximum of twelve months.

The five successful contracts will commence on 1 July 2009.

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2009 HRC Feasibility Study Projects

Ms Sarah-Jane Paine

Massey University, (04) 385 5924

Developing Sleep Services that Meet the Needs of Maori: A Feasibility Study

12 months, \$145,561

Professor Jim Warren

School of Population Health, The University of Auckland, (09) 373 7599 ext 86422

Adherence Innovations in Medication use for Health Improvement (AIM-HI)

12 months, \$147,617

Dr Judith Symonds

AUT University, (09) 921 9999 ext 5879

A Personal Digital Assistant to Augment Goal Management Training

12 months, \$132,292

Dr Rebecca Lilley

University of Otago, (03) 479 7230

Feasibility of a national study of worker's exposure to health and safety risks

12 months, \$65,966

Professor Jeff Sigafos

Victoria University of Wellington, 04 463 9772

Communication intervention for adults with intellectual disability

12 months, \$150,000

ENDS

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About the Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC)

The HRC is the Crown agency responsible for the management of the Government's investment in public good health research. Ownership of the HRC resides with the Minister of Health, with funding being primarily provided from Vote Research, Science and Technology. A Memorandum of Understanding between the two Ministers sets out this relationship.

Established under the Health Research Council Act 1990, the HRC's statutory functions include:

- advising the Minister and administering funds in relation to national health research policy;
- fostering the recruitment, education, training, and retention of those engaged in health research in New Zealand;
- initiating and supporting health research;
- undertaking consultation to establish priorities in health research;
- promoting and disseminating the results of health research to encourage their contribution to health science, policy and delivery, and
- ensuring the development and application of appropriate assessment standards by committees or subcommittees that assess health research proposals.