



Te Rautaki Rangahau o Te Wāhanga Tātai Hauora **Faculty of Health Research Strategy**

Background

The Faculty of Health (Te Wāhanga Tātai Hauora), Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington is an ambitious new Faculty. Our Faculty has coalesced existing and new Schools and Centres that cover a broad and heterogeneous set of initiatives and lines of research with a focus on the health and wellbeing of communities. The synthesis of these efforts has been successful, primarily due to our talented and hard-working colleagues who operate at a high level of excellence.

Strategic Goals

The main strategic research goals are to:

1. Increase the quality, quantity, intensity of research activities - enable and support world-class research and innovation through the development and use of University and Faculty research and innovation support mechanisms and resources;
2. Enable the development of talent with a collegial and supportive environment which complements our existing teaching and research programmes. We also welcome new research approaches which challenge our thinking as well as that of our broader disciplines;
3. Promote the Faculty (embedded within the University and wider Wellington region) as a world-leading Faculty for innovative research (e.g., for proof of concepts with the potential to generate significant social, commercial, academic and cultural value);
4. Support the University to capture and generate value from our research to innovate future health delivery and operations.

Te Rautaki Rangahau o Te Wāhanga Tātai Hauora involves developing a flexible, shared infrastructure that enables new forms of research and innovation to take advantage of Aotearoa New Zealand's rapidly growing and diverse health sector. This will support new collaborative initiatives with a range of internal and external partners, including from government, public sector organisations and industry (including start-ups and SMEs).

We will work with the guidance laid out by the University's *Mai i te Iho ki te Pae* (Māori Strategic Outcomes Framework 2020-2040) to promote ambitious research for transformative impact within the Faculty. Through whai mātauranga (nurturing intellectual curiosity), we will create research leaders and produce high-quality research that pushes the boundaries of new knowledge and enhances the world around us.

Te Rautaki Rangahau o Te Wāhanga Tātai Hauora will both give effect to Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington’s Te Tiriti o Waitangi Statute and complement the Faculty’s mission and vision.

Our transformational and collaborative research, that strengthens Māori strategic priorities such as health and wellbeing, will create avenues for research that pursue knowledge rooted in Māori epistemology as well as opportunities to interface between Māori and Western research in positive and meaningful ways. This will feed into teaching and supervision, creating an innovative, research-intensive teaching environment for our students.

Key Principles

Our key principles are the following:

1. **Engaging constructively with Mātauranga Māori** and Māori communities to recognise the cultural capital and civic engagement generated from Māori scholarship.
2. Building a **strong, multidisciplinary research environment** that maximises excellent Mātauranga Māori, research and innovation across the entire Faculty and Division;
3. Undertaking research in a **collegial** manner that includes constructive intellectual critique and debate, and enhanced critical awareness, but also mentorship and peer support;
4. Supporting **collaboration** across the widest possible sets of partners, intramurally, regionally and internationally;
5. Strongly **encouraging and promoting teamwork** in the Faculty;
6. Establishing **transparent governance structures** that supports broad participation by stakeholders, ethical and data protection-compliant collection and use of data that adhere to the principles of data sovereignty, and research for social good.

The Faculty Management Team will support research development and innovation, including Mātauranga Māori. In conjunction with input from colleagues, we will ensure that grant submissions (and subsequent papers and reports) are of the highest quality, projects will be delivered successfully leading to more effective underpinning of the [University Research Strategy](#).

Actions to achieve strategic goals

Increase the quality, quantity, intensity of research activities

We aim to develop, support and champion excellent research in our Faculty.

Action: Highlighted Faculty research activities will be compiled for recognition (e.g., School and Centre Newsletters will be an avenue to promote and communicate our research excellence to the Senior Leadership Team and others);

Action: We will further develop lunch events for our staff and students to present and discuss their research in a supportive environment.

We will utilise the University's developments for researchers and students to engage in critical understandings of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Mātauranga Māori and Te Reo Māori.

Action: We will actively work with the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori), the Research Development Advisor (Māori), and the Faculty's Poukairangi (Māori) to ensure co-ordination and interface between the University's [Te Tiriti o Waitangi](#) Statute and [Mai i te Iho ki te Pae](#), and the work of the Faculty;

Action: We will prioritise support of access to Mātauranga Māori and Te Reo Māori for Māori researchers and staff within the Faculty.

We will utilise the University's developments for researchers and students to advance engagement with the University [Pasifika strategy](#).

Action: We will actively work with the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) and the [Komiti Pasifika](#) to ensure Pacific research is embedded within the work of the Faculty.

We will support all staff to have access to University wide infrastructure developments, training and support.

Action: Sign-posting (e.g., use of Office 365 Sharepoint or Faculty webpage for documentation and Faculty-wide communication events will be organised).

Fostering research

We will look at strategic recruitment that aligns with University strategy to grow and strengthen the scholarly community, with a focus on emerging, mid-career and research leaders. Professional development, capacity building and succession planning will also be key to the Faculty going forward.

Action: Our recruitment will be strategic – we will seek to recruit, retain and encourage promotion of all individuals to achieve excellence (including our students). Our overarching objective is to support early career researchers to move into permanent positions;

Action: We will create a succession planning strategy within the Faculty;

Action: All academic staff will be mentored via a staff development programme, and a range of support mechanisms available to us (PDCP, Peer Support, Research Mentor programme) that will identify their specific needs in relation to mātauranga Māori, research and publication processes. This will ensure that a research academic staff

development programme and career progression support mechanisms are in place for research;

Action: The mentoring of Māori academic staff via the [research academic staff development programme](#) and career progression support mechanisms will be prioritised, to accommodate their specific needs in relation to Mātauranga Māori, in line with the intents of the University's Te Tiriti o Waitangi Statute and *Mai i te Iho ki te Pae*;

Action: We will identify and support Māori students to develop mātauranga Māori and research strengths and projects in line with their individual interests and the intents of the University's Te Tiriti o Waitangi Statute and *Mai i te Iho ki te Pae*;

Action: We will identify and support Pasifika and other students to develop research strengths and projects in line with their individual interests and the collective interests of their cultural groups.

Promote the Faculty as world-leading in innovative research

We will further build partnerships with government and non-government agencies in Wellington and with our networks throughout Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally. We have already started to work with a variety of organisations outside the University, including Iwi, hapū, community groups, the public sector, NGOs, local SMEs and other organisations.

Action: We will continue to work together with others in building a Faculty for all our collaborators, partners and stakeholders, our staff and students that values Te Tiriti o Waitangi, transparency, democracy and social innovation.

The importance of eHealth and Data-Driven Innovation has been highlighted as one of the key enablers of greater productivity in the healthcare sector and there are also other innovative research areas of staff interest. Funding initiatives are likely to be heavily focused towards greater collaborative activity between academic disciplines, innovation and commercialisation around these topics.

Action: We will aim to work with different organisations across the private, public and charity sectors. We will develop our relationships by means of internships and jointly sponsored Masters and PhDs. We will create Memoranda of Understanding - our ambition being to develop exclusive research partnerships with these organisations;

Action: Our Faculty will be a key contributor to the University's goal to increase digital and data-driven innovation (including: qualitative and quantitative methodologies, human and social change processes as well as technological change);

Action: We will build resource for Biostatistics and Health Economics to support these initiatives.

Capture and generate value from our research to innovate future health delivery and operations

An acknowledged area for the Faculty is equity and inclusiveness. Our heterogeneity (across Schools, Centres and Teams) in subject matter focuses the notion for a good distribution of senior investigators (in terms of the spread of expertise across our Schools and Centres), and optimal performance with respect to grant income and publication output. We should widely communicate our successes (i.e., researchers and teams within the Faculty that are performing at the highest level).

The Faculty includes very strong teams and 'research clusters'. Our Schools are carrying out important research and the work done by our Centres – Te Tātai Hauora o Hine (National Centre for Women's Health Research) and Te Hikuwai Ranganahu Hauora (Health Services Research Centre) – is impressive. In particular, there are great opportunities for our Faculty to become the place to go for Aotearoa New Zealand to monitor, test and improve its health and disability system.

Action: We will fully develop our theme of health services research and support our teams and champion excellence;

Action: We will carry out an exercise to map key stakeholders in Aotearoa New Zealand healthcare and beyond, ensuring that the Faculty is maximising its opportunities, particularly in regard to contributing to the work of the Māori Health Authority and Health New Zealand;

Action: We wish to more fully capture the impact and translation of our research and changes to Government policy and clinical practice.

Overall, the Faculty will benefit from a cohesive branding of its mission that would help guide further growth and consolidation of research efforts - this work can be supported by our Comms team. Currently the Centres and Schools could synchronize their work to exploit any future research opportunities. Branding might also include a Research motto statement that succinctly summarises the vision and aspiration as well as a clear mission statement and set of objectives. This should be supported by a comprehensive communications strategy, based on clarity about the target audiences and the messages to be communicated – in particular to be distinct from other Universities (e.g., Otago, Massey and Auckland). There is also considerable scope for a stronger social media profile.

Action: We will work with our Communication and Marketing team around Research branding, a communications strategy, distinctiveness and social media profile.

The Faculty of Health Research and Study Leave Committee (RLC) appreciates the opportunity to support the important work done at the Institute and reflect on the major progress achieved to-date as well as to be given a chance to identify potential areas of focus and to make recommendations. We acknowledge the feedback provided by Faculty staff in creating this document. *Te Rautaki Rangahau o Te Wāhanga Tātai Hauora* will be reviewed annually by the RLC.

Prof. Colin Simpson

Associate Dean Research and Innovation

On behalf of the Faculty of Health Research and Study Leave Committee