

Frequently asked questions – NZRIS Data Specifications V2.0

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These FAQs explain the key points of the NZRIS Data Specifications V2.0 (“data specifications”), their purpose and how to use them. We recommend you also read our brochure [Working with NZRIS](#) and the information sheet [NZRIS and data management](#) which gives an overview of data management for NZRIS, and will help provide additional context around the data protection patterns.

If you have any questions that aren’t covered here, get in touch with Rio Yonson or Amily Kim from the NZRIS team at nzris@mbie.govt.nz.

1. What are the NZRIS data specifications?

The data specifications set out the specifications for data to be provided to NZRIS. They also provide guidance for data providers to assist them with responding to the individual data requirements.

2. How does Version 2 of the NZRIS data specifications differ from the previous version?

There are two main differences between Version 2 and Version 1.1.1: Version 2 includes information about the submission and protection entities which weren’t in the first one; and it has been edited and restructured to make it easier to follow. There are also minor changes to existing elements, and these are summarised at the start of the document.

Submission entities

Submission entities provide the metadata for each data submission – that is, information about the scope and source of the data being submitted. Submission entities are required for every data submission.

Protection entities

Protection entities seek information about the protection required for data. Protection patterns are used to indicate what level of protection is required, so that data that needs to remain confidential is suppressed rather than published. The details of the patterns and how to use them are set out in the data specification.

3. Who are the data specifications for?

The data specifications are for any organisation that will be providing data to NZRIS.

To start with, they are specifically aimed at the first four organisations that will be submitting data to NZRIS – Ministry for Primary Industries, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the Royal Society Te Apārangi and the Health Research Council.

However, other organisations that will join NZRIS in future may also find the document useful for reviewing current data collection methods and preparing for any potential changes to operational processes and tools required to facilitate data sharing with NZRIS in future.

4. What do the data specifications cover?

The specifications outline the data to be provided to NZRIS. The data to be provided relates to research funded and undertaken in New Zealand.

This includes information about resourcing research, including:

- the people, groups and organisations involved in resourcing research
- asset pools (eg, funds)
- applications for resources
- awards granted
- resources distributed.

It also includes information about the use of resources, including:

- the people, groups and organisations that receive resources for research
- projects that are resourced
- awards and resources received
- distribution of resources received
- outputs.

NZRIS is not a repository; it will not hold the actual research data or results of research (such as published papers).

5. How should I use the NZRIS data specifications document?

Because the document is a technical manual for what data can be submitted to NZRIS, and in what format, it provides a starting point for assessing how NZRIS-compliant your current data is.

Use the document to understand how well your current data matches NZRIS requirements, and where there might be gaps. If you aren't the person in your organisation that knows and understands your organisation's data reporting systems as they relate to research activity, we recommend you work through the document with that person.

The amount of work required to get your current data NZRIS-compliant will depend on the state it is currently in. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the NZRIS team.

The NZRIS team has been working closely with the sector in the development of both the first and second data specification documents. The first version was developed following a series of consultation workshops and input from the sector, to ensure it reflected the needs of the sector as much as possible. The protection and submission entities that have been incorporated into the second version have been tested with data providers including the four early funders.

6. Where can I get more information or help?

Get in touch with the NZRIS team by emailing us at nzris@mbie.govt.nz.