NEW ZEALAND
RESEARCH
INFORMATION
SYSTEM

NZRIS FACT SHEET FOR THE RESEARCH SECTOR

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2020

WHAT WILL NZRIS DO?

The New Zealand Research Information System (NZRIS) is a centrally coordinated source of data about research activity and funding in New Zealand.

NZRIS is being developed by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment on behalf of the research, science, and innovation sector. It will be a place where the research community, funders, and the public can go to find out what research funding and resources support the research, science, and innovation system in New Zealand, what organisations and people receive this support, and the kinds of research they are working on to benefit New Zealand and the world. In conjunction with our NZRIS partners from across the sector, we have also worked to ensure that data of relevance and interest to Māori researchers and communities is included.

NZRIS is being introduced in three phases. Phase 1 will be released in November 2020 and will include funding-related data from three major research funding organisations: the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; the Royal Society Te Apārangi; and the Health Research Council of New Zealand. Phases 2 and 3 will involve a wider range of organisations submitting data, and additional types of data. These phases will start from next year. Keep reading to find out more about how NZRIS works and the type of data included in Phase 1 (overleaf).

WHY DO WE NEED NZRIS?

Right now there is no single, comprehensive source of information about research activity and funding in New Zealand. While some information is available, it's not easy to find or use as it's held in different places and doesn't use common data standards.
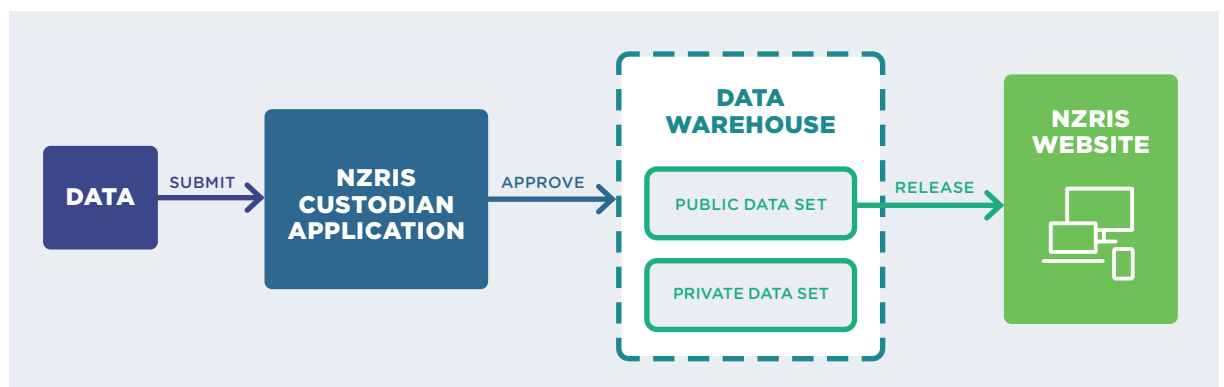
This means that answering basic questions like "how much is invested in a particular area of research?" can be surprisingly difficult, let alone answering more in-depth questions about the value of these investments or where there might be gaps or areas for further and future investment

NZRIS is designed to help solve this issue. It'll be a single place where anyone can find what they're looking for, and it will also help in creating common data standards across the sector so that information can be compared and grouped together more easily.

Phase 1 is just the start, but even this initial release will for the first time provide a single, cross-organisation view of research grants given out.

As NZRIS matures, it will help achieve increased collaboration and inter-connectedness across the sector, easier access to research expertise for government, business and the community, wider exposure and acknowledgement of research work, benefits for Māori development through the collection of kaupapa Māori research data, improvements in the ability to re-use data across the sector, and the ability to assess the effectiveness of investment in influencing broader societal outcomes.

We have already seen some of these benefits generated through the COVID-19 research database which is also administered by the NZRIS team, and it's expected that NZRIS will do the same on an even greater scale.

HOW WILL NZRIS WORK?

The data that NZRIS holds will be submitted by organisations that are active in the research sector. This data will be about funding and resources for research, and data about the research itself.

For phase 1, NZRIS will hold only funding data from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; the Royal Society Te Apārangi; and the Health Research Council of New Zealand.

The data will be submitted through a secure online portal where it's validated and checked (this is known as the NZRIS Custodian Application). From here, data will progress to a secure data warehouse where it will be held in one of two data sets, one private and one public. Data in the private dataset will be kept secure in the warehouse, and data in the public dataset will be periodically released to the website so that it's accessible publicly.

WHAT TYPE OF DATA WILL BE IN NZRIS IN PHASE 1?

The data in NZRIS is broken into data entities, with each one describing a different aspect of the research system.

For phase 1, NZRIS will only contain funding related data entities which include:

- **Asset Pool (Fund):** this describes the research fund or other resource, and includes information such as the name of the asset pool and its purpose.

- **Award Granted:** this describes the awards granted through the Asset Pool (Fund), such as the dollar amount, who's received them, and the purpose of the Award.

- **Resource Distributed:** this describes the way in which the resource (through the Award) is distributed and amounts paid.

- **Organisation/Person:** these include the organisations and names of people that have received awards or have been involved in administering them.

Each data provider organisation decides whether data is published or protected. For phase 1, all three data providers have focused on data that is already published on their own websites. In addition, the Royal Society Te Apārangi and the Health Research Council of New Zealand will also publish data such as ANZSRC codes and the Resource Distributed data entity.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can find out more about NZRIS and the COVID-19 research database at: **www.mbie.govt.nz/nzris-phase-1**
or get in touch with the team at: **nzris@mbie.govt.nz**