

## **Response to: Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways**

The Associate Professors / Professors Group and the Research Committee from the Division of Education, University of Waikato offer this short commentary on key aspects:

### **The place and contribution of educational research:**

- Given the many challenges facing national and global societies, including Aotearoa New Zealand, along with evidence that these require a multidisciplinary response (see for example United Nations Sustainable Development Goals) we were surprised and disappointed that recognition of the contributions to be made by educational research are largely absent from the document.
- The focus appears to be on research outputs and links to industry: What of community-based / volunteer sector organisations and the education sector?
- We suggest there needs to be more consideration of how to support collaboration across sectors, organisation and disciplines at the levels of policy, practice and funding if the intention to focus interdisciplinarity is genuine.

### **Priority setting:**

- The composition of any group that decides on research priorities needs very careful attention - we strongly support the focus of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Vision Mātauranga.
- In relation to priorities we asked: How will the system balance being responsive and flexible within a commitment to longer term investment? What will be the system for review and revisioning funding priorities? COVID provides a timely example of the need to build in scope for responsiveness and flexibility.
- We are concerned about the narrowing of research opportunities depending on the scope of the research priorities – What is a ‘core function’ What are the fundamental questions we need to be asking? How will we know what might become fundamental in the future? We consider there is a critical need for “theoretical” research given this can open unanticipated and productive pathways towards future applied research.

### **Workforce**

- We support the need to enhance opportunities to grow ECR
- We are particularly concerned with growing and developing research capacity amongst Māori colleagues/ prospective colleagues

**Impact**

- We were interested in how impact would be considered and ‘measured’ in both the short and longer term, both closely and more distal to the research setting itself, including applied and theoretical impacts, and social impacts

**Funding**

- We support initiatives that would limit competition and support collaboration
- We support the notion of baseline funding
- The total amount of research funding needs reviewing, along with processes for managing the research funding. Our current level of research funding falls far below other developed nations, which limits our opportunities to conduct globally impactful research and to recruit and retain researchers.

Submitted by

Professor Bronwen Cowie on behalf of Professors/ Associate Professors and the Research Committee from Te Kura Toi Tangata, Division of Education, University of Waikato