

# ***DASSH Conference 2012***

## **How does New Zealand fund research?**

Charles Daugherty

Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Victoria University of Wellington

New Zealand

[Charles.Daugherty@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Charles.Daugherty@vuw.ac.nz)

# Context (1)

- Most (>90%) NZ research is funded by Government
- Total Government investment in research is ~\$1-2 billion annually
- Primary recipients
  - Crown Research Institutes (CRI's) (7)
  - Universities (8)
  - Increasingly, business & industry

# Context (2)

- Primary recipients must be New Zealanders
- Genuinely contestable funding declining
- Primary target outcome:
  - National benefit = economic gain

# Marsden Fund (1)

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- Investigator-led
- All academic disciplines
- Research goals:
  - “the advancement of knowledge”
  - Blue-skies research, forefront, cutting-edge
- Global in scope
- Usually undertaken by team

# Marsden Fund (2)

- Usually ~\$50m allocated annually
- ~90 grants
- Term of grants: 2-3 years
- \$150,000 – 300,000 per grant annually

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# Marsden Fund (3)

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- Fully contestable, annual process
- Ten different panels, NZ and Australian membership (3 explicitly in HASS)
  - Economics & Human & Behavioural Sciences
  - Humanities
  - Social Sciences

# Marsden Fund (4)

- First stage:
  - Panel-only review
  - ~20% success
- Second, final round:
  - 3-5 international expert reviews
  - ~40% success

**8 – 12% Overall Success**

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# Access to Marsden Fund for Australian researchers

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- Find a New Zealand collaborator who will be Principal Investigator
- Australian investigator role:
  - Co-Principal or Associate Investigator
  - Post-doctoral Fellow, PhD student
- Research topic must be relevant to NZ



# Why should Australian researchers bother?

- Money is good:
  - No salary but....
  - **Full costs + per diem**
- Comparative research has benefits
- Topics of common interest
- Grateful New Zealanders!

# For example.....

- Shared history, ANZACs
- Colonialism, Indigenous studies
- Disasters, social resilience
- Pacific art, literature & culture
- National art and literature
- National identity
- Government, law, education, social services, refugees, green urbanism . . . .

# Messages

- Opportunities exist
- Research is increasingly collaborative
- It's a natural partnership

