

# Research Charter for Aotearoa New Zealand

**Ki te kotahi te kākaho ka whati, ki te kāpuia e kore e whati**  
**Alone we can be broken. Standing together, we are invincible – Kīngi Tāwhiao**

## Preamble

This research charter promotes the conduct of research to the highest standards of ethics and integrity to produce high-quality research findings. It recognises the importance, value and validity of multiple research practices (including kaupapa Māori, Rangahau<sup>[a]</sup> and Pacific research practice), multiple knowledge systems (including mātauranga Māori), and te reo me ōna tikanga.<sup>[b]</sup>

It is a resource which any organisation or person can adopt or apply, in full or in part.

## Values and principles

The ethical and professional values and principles relevant to the research community<sup>[c]</sup> must be interpreted within a general framework that recognises human and civil rights, the principles of free enquiry and an open society, and obligations arising from the Treaty of Waitangi.<sup>[d]</sup> These principles and values share a common ground: processes for knowledge discovery, exploration and sharing between researchers, participants and communities in Aotearoa New Zealand that are respectful of people and their rights.

Researchers<sup>[e]</sup>, research organisations and funders<sup>[f]</sup> are encouraged to regard the values and principles as working together to guide their activities,<sup>[g]</sup> as is appropriate to their specific research context. These are:

Value/Principle	Description
<b>Tika</b> <sup>[h,i]</sup>	Acting with integrity and respecting the interests of relevant communities
<b>Mana</b>	Balancing one's own authority and the rights held by others
<b>Whakapapa</b>	Acknowledges the importance of relationships with relevant communities
<b>Manaakitanga</b>	Acting with care and respecting diverse values and communities
<b>Pūkenga</b>	Acting with rigour
<b>Kaitiakitanga</b>	Acting with responsibility and ensuring resources are managed appropriately
<b>Beneficence</b>	Acting to benefit other people, contributing to broad concepts of wellbeing, and balancing benefits against risks and costs
<b>Non-maleficence</b>	Not causing harm intentionally, and ensuring that the risks of harm are outweighed by the expected benefits
<b>Justice</b>	People are treated fairly and equitably, including fairly distributing the benefits and burdens of research to individuals and communities
<b>Respect</b>	Respecting an individual's right to make choices and hold views, and to take actions based on their own values and beliefs
<b>Integrity</b>	Refers to the trustworthiness of research due to the soundness of its methods and the honesty and accuracy of its presentation
<b>Duty of care</b>	Obligations that a reasonable person owes to others who may be affected by their acts or omissions

## Expectations

Responsible and high-quality research practice occurs when researchers act well and are supported and encouraged by research organisations and funders that share a commitment to world-class professional standards and to supporting the public interest. In such a context, researchers should:

1. Behave with honesty and professionalism, and undertake their research diligently and carefully using appropriate methods;
2. Actively seek research excellence, demonstrate the highest standards of behaviour and foster a culture of integrity;<sup>[j]</sup>
3. Be respectful to other people, including acting with cultural intelligence<sup>[k]</sup> and intellectual rigour (pūkenga), and appreciating diverse values and communities (manaakitanga);
4. Endeavour to identify and engage with stakeholders and/or affected communities (whakapapa), recognise their rights (mana), and respect their interests (tika), including intergenerational interests;
5. Where practicable, partner with mana whenua, tangata whenua, iwi, hapū or other communities for who there are reasonably foreseeable direct impacts, which may include using appropriate methodologies such as kaupapa Māori, rangahau or collaborative pathways that are co-designed and co-delivered with those partners;
6. Meet all ethical and regulatory requirements,<sup>[l]</sup> and implement relevant practice standards;<sup>[m]</sup>
7. Safeguard the health, safety, well-being and rights of people involved in or affected by the conduct of their research;
8. Responsibly manage artefacts, data, samples and records they have created or collected;
9. Be mindful of the environmental effects of their research and research practices (kaitiakitanga);
10. Disclose and manage conflicts of interest;
11. Only claim competence commensurate with their expertise, knowledge and skills;
12. Correctly attribute those who have contributed to, or funded the research, and appropriately acknowledge relevant work by others;
13. Contribute to the public interest by being mindful of their obligations to society, reflecting on what the consequences of their research might be, disseminating results and findings as soon as it is appropriate to do so, and engaging responsibly with the public.<sup>[n]</sup>

## Research organisations contribute further when they:

14. Establish and maintain good governance and management practices<sup>[o]</sup> to support and encourage responsible research practice;
15. Provide appropriate amenities, support systems, and ongoing training, education or mentoring for researchers and others in relevant roles within their auspices;
16. Provide for the safe and secure storage, management and access for future use of research artefacts, data, samples and records;
17. Use good practice processes<sup>[p]</sup> to receive concerns or complaints about matters of potentially poor research conduct,<sup>[q]</sup> investigate and determine such matters, and undertake any necessary follow-through actions.<sup>[r]</sup>

## Funders contribute further when they:

18. Use good practice processes<sup>[s]</sup> to provide assurance that, if the requested funding is provided and properly managed, sufficiently knowledgeable people will conduct the research and ethical and regulatory requirements will be met;
19. Champion equity, diversity and inclusion, seeking to increase the participation and recognition of under-represented groups in the research community of Aotearoa New Zealand;
20. Share good practice, and if a public funder, seek to harmonise requirements with other public funders to reduce the burden on funding recipients and applicants.



View explanatory notes at  
[royalsociety.org.nz/research-charter-aotearoa-new-zealand](https://royalsociety.org.nz/research-charter-aotearoa-new-zealand)