

## Research themes and projects

THEME  
1



Healthy food and physical activity environments

### Active projects

**HYPE:** Evaluating the Implementation and Impact of the National Healthy Food and Drink Policy

Assessing the health and environmental benefits of sustainable New Zealand diets

**ACTIVATION:** Activating Change Through Interventions for Active Travel In Our Neighbourhoods\*

Nutritional Determinants of Non-Communicable Diseases

**Note:** There are no completed projects in Theme 1 because this research started in mid-2019. Research in Themes 2 and 3 started in 2016.

THEME  
2



Culturally centred health interventions for Māori and Pacific peoples

### Active projects

Co-designing a Pacific diabetes prevention program with families and communities

**ACCESS:** Accessing Cardiovascular Care for Equity Studies\*

Life-course impact of chronic health conditions: a family and whānau perspective▲\*

### Completed projects

He Pikinga Waiora: making health interventions work for Māori communities

Mana Tū: a whānau ora approach to long term conditions\*

OL@-OR@: a Māori and Pasifika mHealth approach to supporting healthy lifestyles

WellConnectedNZ: improving individuals' health by strengthening community connectedness\*

The Pasifika Prediabetes Youth Empowerment Programme\*

THEME  
3



Precision medicine and personalised prevention

### Active projects

Integration of ctDNA into the New Zealand healthcare system

Using epigenetics as a precision medicine tool in equitable prediction of cardiovascular disease outcomes

### Completed projects

CtDNA for better cancer management

Equitable cardiovascular and diabetes risk prediction

Innovative management of diabetes with a comprehensive digital health programme (BetaMe)\*

Food 4 Health – He Oranga Kai: preventing type 2 diabetes with probiotics and prebiotics\*

## Research support platforms

### Economic evaluation

#### Commissioned report

*The Economic and Social Cost of Type 2 Diabetes* – a commissioned investigation by PwC New Zealand about the future cost of type 2 diabetes to New Zealand.

Jointly funded by Diabetes NZ, Healthier Lives, Edgar Diabetes & Obesity Research and private philanthropists.

### Big and linked data

#### Active projects

Integrated data for addressing non-communicable disease and ethnic inequalities

#### Completed projects

The impact of the Canterbury earthquakes on cardiovascular disease

Protective factors against the progression of prediabetes to diabetes

The prevalence of cancer in New Zealand

### Knowledge exchange

#### Activities

Fonos to disseminate results of Pacific-led research to Pacific communities in Auckland and Tokoroa, newsletter, Twitter, website, media

#### Publications

Research findings briefs | He Kupu mō ngā Kitenga Rangahau

#### Events

Parliamentary launch: The Economic and Social Cost of Type 2 Diabetes report, March 2021

Innovations in Applied Data Symposium, June 2021

Māur Lelei fono, June 2021

Research structure – August 2021

## Healthier Lives | He Oranga Hauora National Science Challenge

### Gazette objective

To reduce the burden of major New Zealand health problems

### Vision | Te Kitenga

**Our vision** is of Aotearoa New Zealand with equitable health outcomes and a substantially reduced burden of non-communicable diseases.

**Tō mātou kitenga** kia noho a Aotearoa New Zealand hei whenua he ōrite ngā putanga hua hauora mō te tangata, kia iti iho hoki ngā pūkauranga o ngā māuiui kāore e taea te tuku ki te tangata kē.

### Target diseases

Cancer | Cardiovascular disease | Diabetes | Obesity

### Cross-cutting principles

Equitable health outcomes | Treaty partnership and Vision Mātauranga | Co-design with next and end users

### Research partnerships

- ◆ Long-Term Conditions Partnership: Ministry of Health, Health Research Council and Healthier Lives ESR-Healthier Lives Emerging Scientists\*
- ▲ Heart Foundation-Healthier Lives joint venture
- ▲ A Better Start National Science Challenge
- ★ Ageing Well National Science Challenge

\* The ESR-Healthier Lives partnership funded two emerging scientists to undertake research aligned to the Healthier Lives mission.

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Challenges



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Healthier Lives | He Oranga Hauora National Science Challenge is funded by MBIE and hosted by the University of Otago.

**Internationally excellent research:** More than a quarter of Healthier Lives' (HL) academic publications are published in top 5% journals and more than half in top 25% journals. Overall, HL publications are cited 3.9 times more than average. (Data from Scopus, downloaded 3/08/21)