

General feedback from RfP review panel to applicants

Review Process: The proposal assessment criteria were outlined in the Request for Proposals (RfP) Guidelines ([available here](#)). After initial eligibility checks were complete and conflicts identified, proposals were sent to four reviewers. The reviews were collated and assessed at a review panel meeting where the applications were discussed and funding recommendations were made. The review panel meeting was attended by an independent observer who provided a report to the Board for their consideration when reviewing the funding recommendations and endorsing the funding allocations.

Projects were either recommended for funding as submitted or were not funded; there was no opportunity for negotiation or partial funding.

Total proposals: There were 29 proposals received, in the following categories:

A: DT & IP Research Project	25	\$ 1,400,628
B: Proposal Development Grant	1	\$ 12,000
C: Mātauranga Māori Project	1	\$ 70,000
D: CEE & DEWI Focused Project	2	\$ 89,988
TOTAL	29	\$ 1,572,616

Oversubscription: The total requested funds were approximately four times the available budget for this RfP funding round. This is the largest level of oversubscription of the Te Hiranga Rū QuakeCoRE RfP rounds to date, and resulted in only proposals that were exceptionally highly scored by the majority of the reviewers being funded.

Prior engagement with QuakeCoRE: Several proposals were from investigator teams that had shown limited engagement with Te Hiranga Rū QuakeCoRE to date: Given the mission to build a national research community, such investigators would benefit from a track record of direct engagement before submitting further requests for funding.

Student capability development: Given Te Hiranga Rū QuakeCoRE is TEC funded, there is a preference for research proposals that primarily involve students. Proposals that predominantly requested funds for postdoctoral fellows, research assistants and/or private sector personnel were lower ranked as a result.

Proposal Development Grants: Several proposals from early-career researchers were at an initial development stage and would have been better suited to the 'Proposal Development Grant' category.

Budget justification: The budget justification for many proposals was insufficient to enable reviewers to understand the personnel expenditure and aligned funding; this is particularly important given that a significant number of projects applied for the maximum funding available.

Unsuccessful Projects: Unsuccessful applicants are welcome to apply to future Te Hiranga Rū QuakeCoRE funding rounds. Specific feedback is available from Programme Area Leaders as outlined in the funding outcome notifications.