

# W(h)ither Health and Medical Research in New Zealand?



New Zealanders for  
**HEALTH RESEARCH**

*Ngā Tāngata o Aotearoa mō  
te Rangahau Hauora*

# Who are we?

New Zealanders for Health Research is on a mission to champion increased investment in health research as an essential and embedded component of all parts of New Zealand's health system, responsive to New Zealanders' unique health imperatives.....

.....in order to achieve our vision of best possible health for all New Zealanders

# Introducing my family...

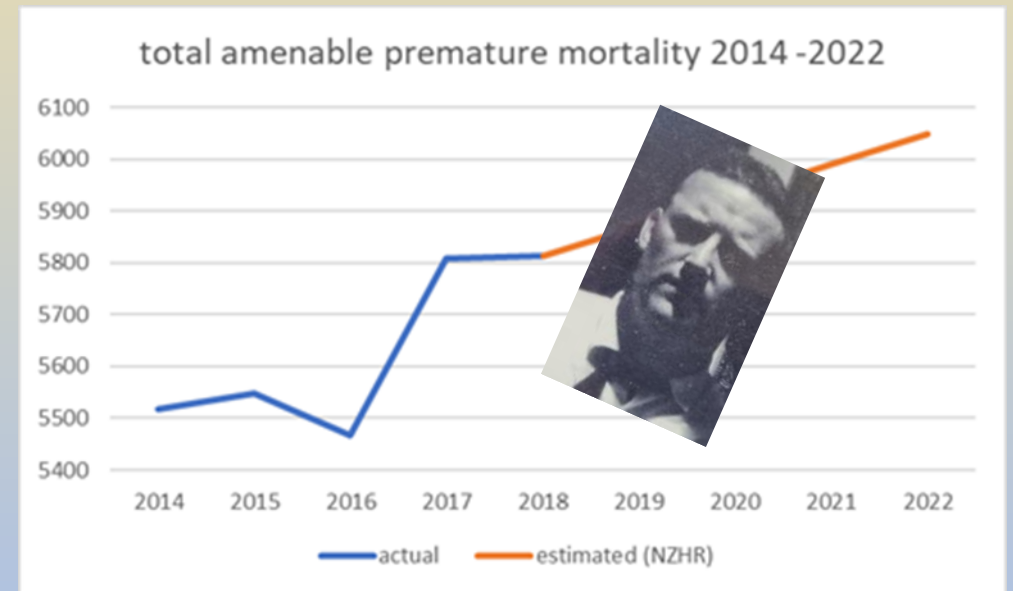
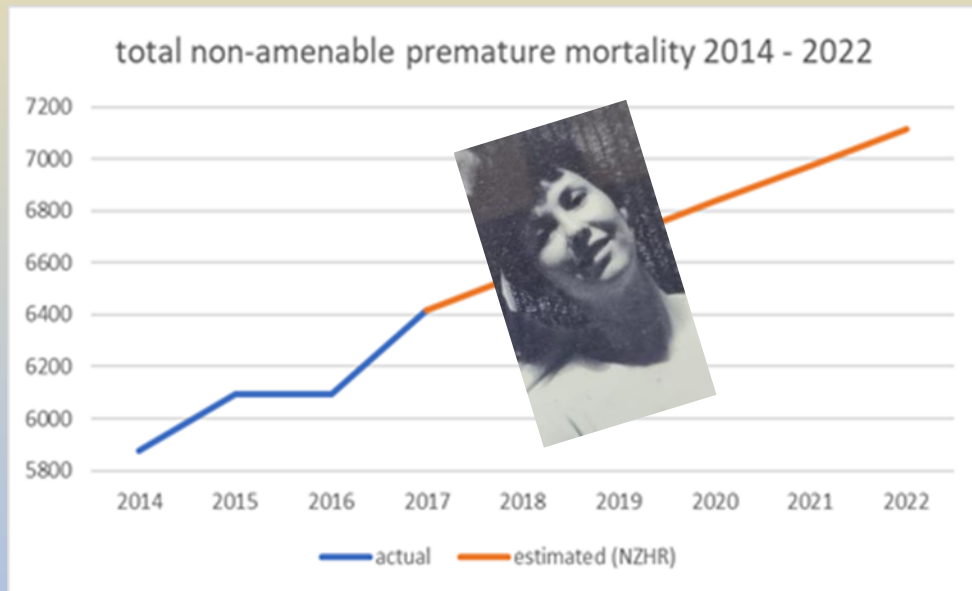




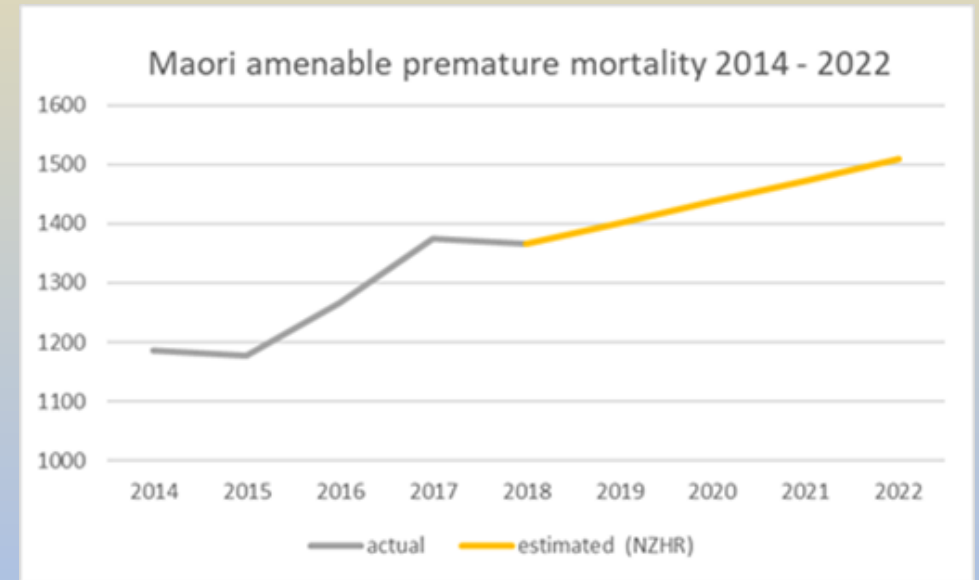
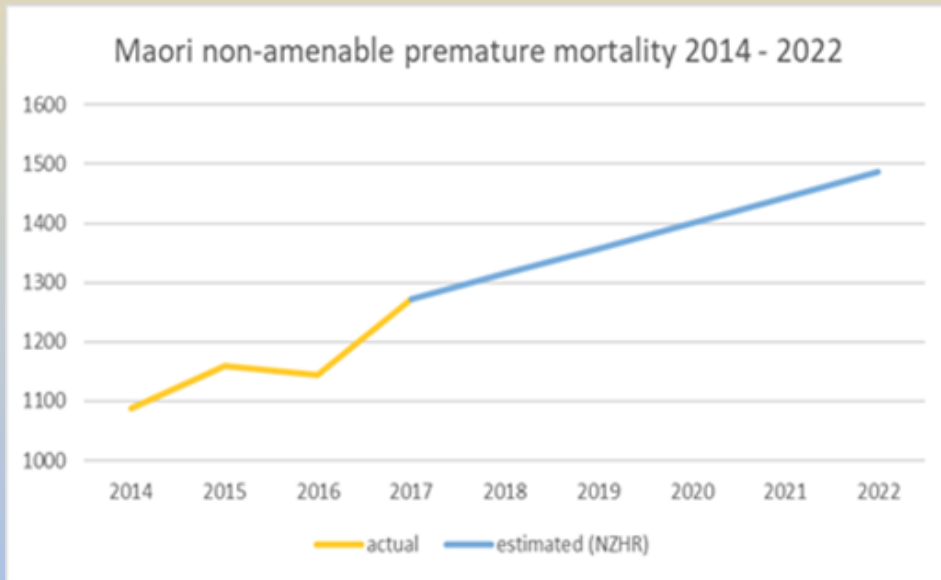
“Knowing that we have done everything we can to keep New Zealanders alive...is the basic duty of Government”

Finance Minister Grant Robertson. December 2021

# Premature mortality: the health system crisis that nobody talks about



# Māori premature mortality: the health system crisis that nobody talks about



# Morbidity

- Premature mortality figures are the tip of a much greater iceberg of morbidity
- About 890,000 people < 75 are hospitalized each year
- Levels of well being as measured by quality of life years (for all ages) haven't changed over the last thirty years

# Health research improves and saves lives

Health research and innovation is the single most important way in which we improve our health and healthcare - by *identifying* and *implementing* the best means to prevent, diagnose and treat conditions.



# New Zealand's health research system...

NZHR advocates for health research system for New Zealand which is:

- effective, modern, and future-focused
- adaptable for a rapidly changing future, resilient to changes, and connected to itself, to industry, to public sector users of health research [including the health sector], and internationally.
- reflective of New Zealand's unique opportunities and challenges, embedding Te Tiriti and opportunities for mātauranga Māori across the design and delivery attributes of the system
- part of a global undertaking which can stand alongside the best systems in the world

## ...at crossroads

Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act

Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways RSI Green Paper

Health Research Strategy

Health research investment trajectory

# Pae Ora (Healthy Futures)

Te Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora to:

- undertake and support research relating to health
- evaluate the delivery and performance of services they provide or fund
- take into account the role of the Health Research Council, among other entities, in developing the New Zealand Health Plan

## But...

- The health reform structures are less than optimal for consistently translating health research results into policy and practice
- There's a reluctance, at least in the legislation, to commit to evidence based provision of services and programmes
- A commitment to a health research strategy not included in the list of plans mandated by the legislation

# Te Ara Paerangi Future RSI Pathways

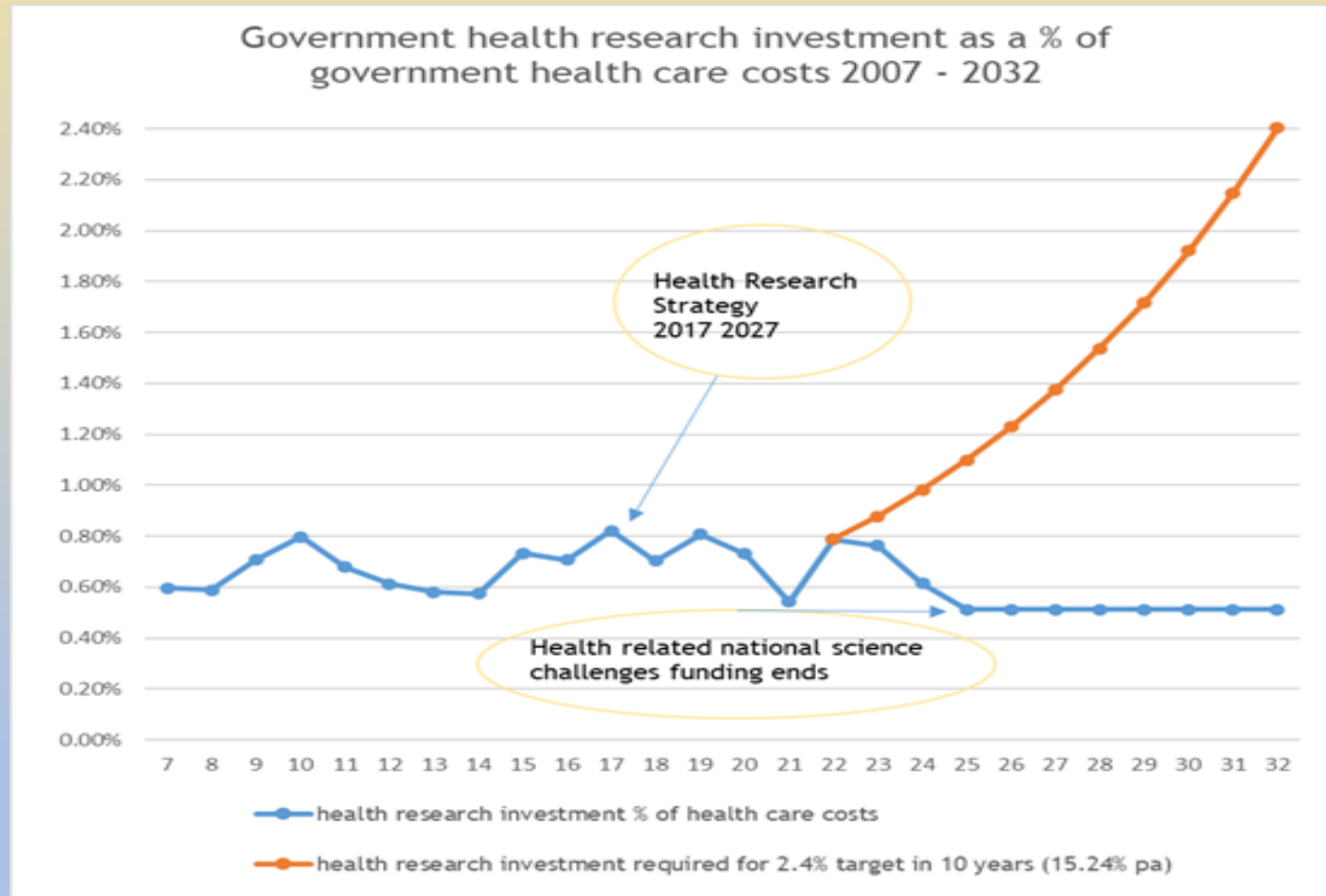
...to identify priorities for New Zealand's future research, science and innovation system. Health doesn't feature well in the current ad hoc prioritisation mechanisms including Crown Research Institutes, National Science Challenges and Centres of Research Excellence.

- A health CRI-like entity be created to undertake and fund health and medical research, provide for health research workforce development and retention, and facilitate processes for translating research results into policy and practice
- An agency be created within the health CRI-like entity to identify and promulgate up to date evidence based best practice standards and guidelines for clinical care and service delivery, eg Cochrane and NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence)
- Government health research investment be both significantly lifted and allocated to sustain a world class health research workforce, with health research and health researchers embedded as essential components of the health system itself.

# Health Research Strategy

- Half way through its ten year term
- Implementation is the joint responsibility of HRC, MBIE and MoH
- Risks losing momentum with the completion of the HRC prioritisation tool and as focus shifts to Te Ara Paerangi and Pae Ora
- Still much to do to realise the HRS:
  - Investing in research for healthy futures for Māori and Pacific people
  - Strong health research workforce
  - Strengthened health sector participation in research
  - Enable and embed translation across the health sector

# Health research investment



# Health research investment

Descriptor	2018 Investment ratio
Direct govt health research investment vs direct govt health care costs	0.72%
Direct govt health research investment vs total govt costs of addressing ill health	0.59%
Direct govt health research investment vs total govt and society costs of addressing ill health	0.31%
Total govt health research investment vs total govt costs of addressing ill health	1.2%
Total govt health research investment vs total govt and society costs of addressing ill health	0.65%
Total health research investment (govt+industry+philanthropy) vs total govt and society costs of addressing ill health	1.2%



# Greater health research investment supported by the voting public:

- 75% agreed that government should invest more funding in health research
- 66% said that the 2022 budget of \$173 million for health research (0.8% of health care costs) is too low
- only 9% supported government practice of investing less than 1% of health care costs into health research.

# Greater health research investment required to:

- Improve premature amenable and non-amenable premature mortality and morbidity outcomes
- Enable Te Whatu Ora, Te Aka Whai Ora and Manatū Hauora to undertake their research functions
- Enable improved health outcomes to be recognised and securely resourced as a key RSI priority
- Create a research culture embedded within health services delivery where clinicians routinely engage in health research as a key component of their practice
- Resource implementation of the health research strategy
- Support investigator led and other research where line of sight to impact is difficult to articulate
- Free up health and medical researchers to get on with what they're good at

# Thanks!

Platinum



Gold



Silver

KANTAR

Bronze



Foundation

