
Royal Society of New Zealand

Nau mai, haere mai ki Te Apārangi

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ROYAL
SOCIETY
TE APĀRANGI

Purpose

“Advancement and promotion in New Zealand of science, technology, and the humanities”

- Private Act of Parliament
- Independent non-government organisation, charitable status
- Multidisciplinary - unique in having all disciplines in a single academy



**Royal Society of New Zealand Act
1997**

Established by James Hector as the New Zealand Institute in 1867 for the study of science, art, philosophy and literature

Name changed by statute to Royal Society of New Zealand in 1933

Functions

These include to:

- Provide expert advice on important public issues to the Government and the community
- Advance science and technology education
- Promote public awareness, knowledge, and understanding of science, technology and the humanities
- Provide support for the professional needs and development of scientists, technologists, and humanities scholars
- setting standards for research, public engagement and mentoring.

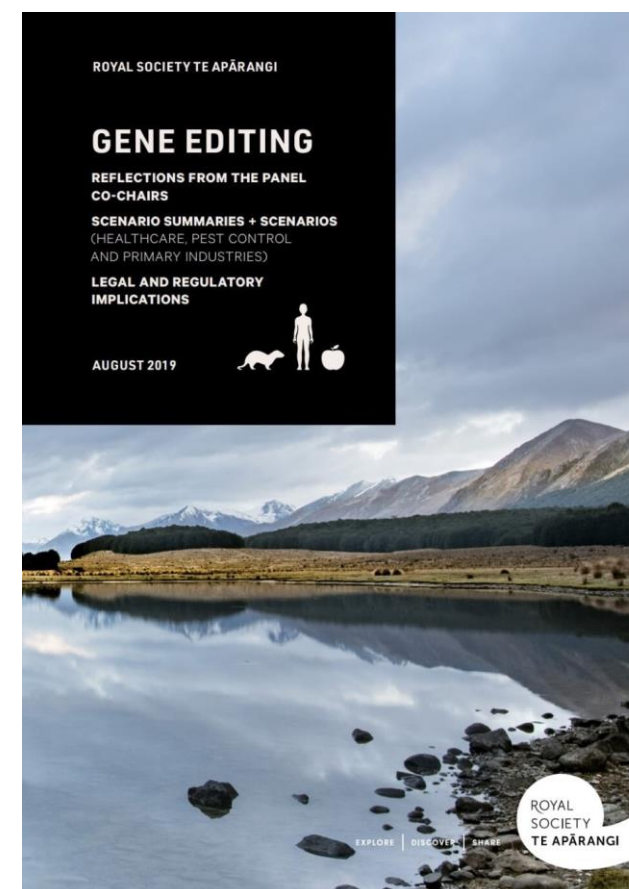
Activities

- Membership services (Fellows, Companions, Constituent Organisations, Professional Members, elections, medals and awards), funded with subscriptions and Society's own funds ~10%
- Service provider to government (research investment, journal publication, science teacher leadership, Fellowships, hosting Science Media Centre, international unions) - contract management fees ~ 80%
- Other services to Government and the community (**includes expert advice and research practice**, funded from Government core grant)
- The Society also receives some income from meeting room hire, property services and an endowment trust ~10

Service contracts such as research investment help build critical mass. However, you first need to earn the right to manage Government funds

Providing advice

- Relevant to NZ
- Topics that play to our strengths (e.g., data sovereignty, education and science teaching, gene editing)
- Defensible published evidence base available
- Identified audience
- Feasible pathway to influence – either public or government or both
- Independent review
- Accessible advice
- Content owned by the experts



We advocate for evidence-informed advice, not particular policy positions

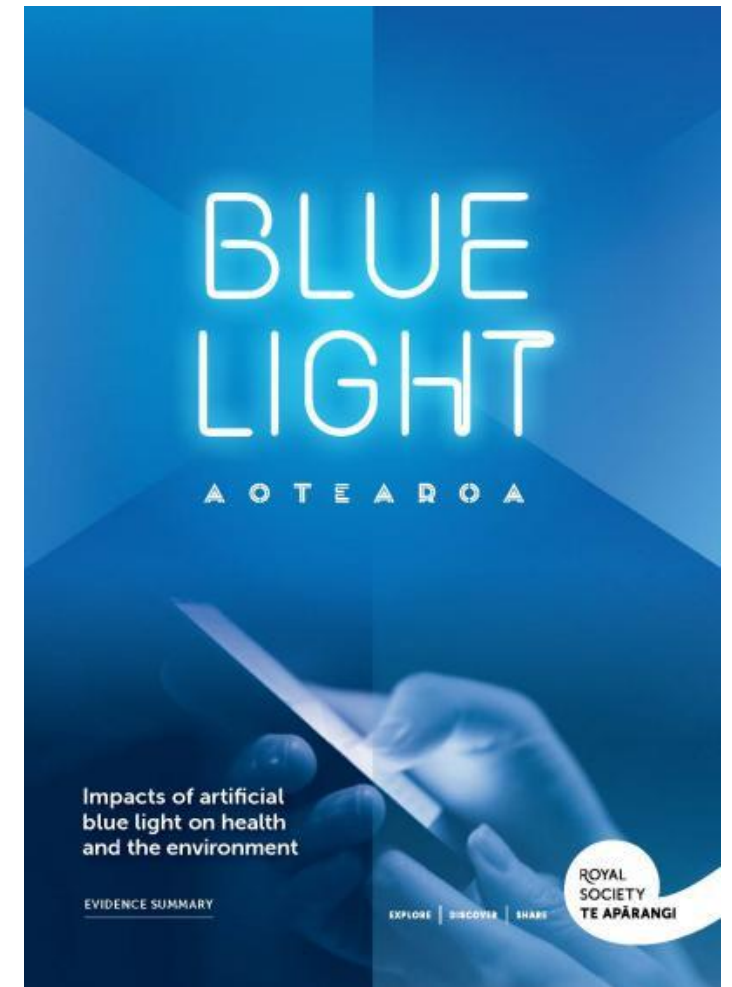
Channels of advice

Forms of advice

- Deliberative Panels (larger more complex topics)
- Fact Sheets (shorter more specific topics)
- Workshops
- Submissions to Government consultations
- Public programmes
- Social media promotion

Occasionally

- Expert panels in Partnership with others
- Direct government-commissioned projects
- Collaboration with other academies



We rely on volunteers for panels and expert input

Supporting excellence in research

For individuals

- Code of Professional Standards and Ethics for our members
- Public engagement guidelines for researchers
- Mentoring guidelines for researchers

For the system

- Research Charter
- Championing Freedom and Responsibility in Science (CFRS)
- ORCID unique identifier system for validating research

The organisation must meet its own standards in order to earn the trust of researchers, Government and the public

Governance

Council – overarching governance

President

Elected members

Representative members

Co-opted members

General rules determine operating procedures, including approving new members

Academy Executive Committee

Chair

Deputy chair

Committee members elected by disciplinary domains of Fellows

Bylaws allow for self-regulation of Academy, including election of Fellows

Secretariat support

Early-career researchers

Broad collection of self-nominating early career researchers

Early-career researcher Forum to organise

One elected member of the Forum is represented on Council

He Pito Mata – annual or bi-annual event bringing ECRs together

Lead and managed by ECRs

Discusses issues relevant to ECRs – e.g., precarity

Very successful

Recent focus on Pacific

Have not so far seen the need of going down the path of a youth Academy.

Te ao Māori and Indigenous knowledge

Building relationships

Taking practical steps towards mutual understanding and benefits

Taking the necessary time to meet and discuss

Having a presence at major events

Māori electoral college

Respecting Mātauranga Māori as a knowledge system in its own right

Promoting examples of Mātauranga Māori that exemplify both its distinct nature and its relationship to science

Growing and supporting our Pacific networks

Instilling good practice in tikanga and use of te reo Māori within the organisation.

Co-design

Create a willing and representative core of interested parties to get this underway

Begin with the end in mind – agree a purpose statement and name (does it need to be called an academy?).

Identify the important stakeholder groups – government, NGOs, public, research institutions etc

Use existing frameworks and experience where available to start building the governance structure and operating rules

Take time to ensure everyone is heard

Communicate widely and often

Royal Society Te Apārangi is happy to assist if, and when our help is sought.