

## **HINTS FOR PREPARING APPLICATIONS TO THE MARSDEN FUND**

**Marsden Research is internationally leading, innovative fundamental research. Allocation is circumscribed by the size of the Fund.**

### **WHAT IS THE MARSDEN FUND FOR?**

- Investigator driven, basic or fundamental research which supports new ideas and research excellence
- Increasing the stock of new knowledge and developing new capabilities
- Broadening and deepening research skill base in New Zealand
- Research that may ultimately lead to new endeavours
- Innovative research not subject to Government priorities
- Ambitious projects at the international cutting edges of their disciplines
- Enhance knowledge and understanding, not accumulate information
- Nationally relevant, internationally significant research
- 2020s research, not 1990s research

### **WHAT IS THE MARSDEN FUND NOT FOR?**

- A general fund for basic research
- A safety net for other grant failures
- A research career structure
- A general post-graduate or post-doctoral fund
- A general equipment fund
- A general data collection fund

### **REASONS FOR FAILURE**

- No hypothesis or aim, or element of discovery.
- Too vague, too much jargon, incomprehensible

- Insufficient funding
- Not appropriate for Marsden
- Better funded from other sources
- Over page limit, poorly laid out, instructions not followed

### **OPTIMISING YOUR CHANCES**

- Be focussed – What is the question? What is your answer?
- Be realistic. Results in three years?
- Emphasise the innovative aspects
- What differentiates your work from existing trends?
- Does it meet aims of the Marsden Fund? Brief explanation
- Write for a research literate but general assessment panel
- Include a research plan
- Refer to background literature. Include titles in bibliography.
- Remember the “WHAT, WHY, WHEN, WHERE, HOW” rule