

# STONZ Research Policy

## Version Control Info

Version: 2.0

Date approved: September 2024

Approved by: Owner – Executive Committee

Review cycle: Biennial review

Next review due: September 2026

## Preamble

STONZ as a union is committed to advocating for working and training environments for RMOs that are evidence based and considered best practice. It is the role of the executive team to ensure intended or completed changes to the SECA are supported by the best available literature. Therefore, ensuring changes will have positive effects on RMOs working and training environment.

STONZ is committed to funding novel and local research to develop the literature where best practice for working and training conditions is not clear. Funding available for research is to be applied for by the research candidate by way of the STONZ research application form.

Funding applicants do not have to be STONZ members and applications will be graded on their wider benefit to STONZ members and the RMO workforce.

## Priority topics

Topics prioritised to receive STONZ funding include:

- RMO fatigue and wellbeing
- RMO recreation and well-being e.g., social sports and its effects
- Safer working hours and sleep management
- Factors influencing RMO efficiency
- Training methodology and outcomes
- Health economics of New Zealand
- Clinical governance and leadership
- Health informatics

## Funding allocation

STONZ commits funding for research projects as part of the annual budgeting process. For FY25 the amount committed is \$15,000. The criteria on which funding will be considered by the Executive is as follows:

- Likelihood of successful completion
- Likelihood to answer the research question
- Robust scientific methodology
- Appropriate supervision/collaboration
- Likelihood of presentation/publication

## Clinical research

Clinical research can also be supported by the STONZ research grants, but clinical topics will be prioritised below the topics listed above. This will be at the discretion of the STONZ executive.

## Application outcome

After submission of the application form and supporting documents, the application will be considered and discussed by the STONZ executive. The STONZ executive will then vote on whether the project will be:

- Fully funded
- Partially funded
- Invite revised application (with recommended changes)
- Declined

The applicant will be informed in writing of the outcome of the application within 28 days of application.

## Project supervision/support

It is not the intention of the STONZ executive to personally take on or supervise research projects. However, where possible, the STONZ executive will endeavour to ensure that appropriate supervision or collaboration is in place to support the research candidate and ensure success of the project.

Research projects applied for can be imbedded within other research organisations such as universities, hospital research groups or other academic institutions. It is a requirement of the applicant to declare how the STONZ research grant is to be used in conjunction with other existing or applied for funding.

## Project advertising/recruitment

Where appropriate, STONZ will use their existing communication channels to advertise or recruit for research projects. Specific communication requests (such as the use of the membership mailing list) should be included for consideration on the STONZ research application form. Funding applied for may also be used for external advertising outside of the STONZ channels. Depending on current volume of research projects, the STONZ team will not overwhelm their membership with research advertising or recruitment and therefore advertising and recruitment will be at their discretion. The STONZ team are under no obligation to directly advertise projects to their membership.

## Projects as part of post graduate qualifications

Projects applied for can be embedded within postgraduate qualifications for the applicant. However, it will be considered as to whether the funding used will most benefit the applicant or the membership/RMO group and will be project/qualification dependent. Successful applications will have clear positive effects for RMOs, more so than for the individual applicant. Aligning with the intention for the funding to be for the greater benefit of STONZ members and RMOs, not individuals.

## Payment of funding

Funding payments will be made from the STONZ account to the applicant directly by way of reimbursement or by direct invoice to STONZ. Depending on the key milestones of the project, an appropriate payment plan will be constructed aiming for no single payments to be greater than \$1,000. For example, if a project requires \$4,000 funding across a 1-year time period, four \$1,000 payments will be made.

Funding requests for equipment purchases will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## Research progression

Project timelines and required progress reports will be agreed upon between the applicant and STONZ executive at the time of application. Project reports will be submitted to the research representative and any concerns escalated to the executive committee.

Projects failing to satisfactorily progress will be identified firstly by a written notice from STONZ with the opportunity for the applicant to rectify or justify poor progress. Should this not be resolved then outcomes can include the withdrawal of further funding for the project.

Abandoned projects can be re-assigned to other research applicants for completion and the initial research candidate is required to pass on their project to the succeeding applicant and the proceeding candidate is acknowledged for their contribution.

### Results or outcome ownership and presentation/publication

STONZ are to be acknowledged for their support of the project in any presentation or publication. The publication or presentation of results is to be done so to reflect that the result is a finding of the study not the finding or recommendation of STONZ as a union.

*i.e.*

*Appropriate results statement*

This project demonstrated that RMOs are more alert following longer sleeping hours than if sleep is interrupted.

*Project funded through STONZ research grant.*

*Inappropriate results statement*

STONZ has demonstrated that RMOs are more alert following longer sleeping hours than if sleep is interrupted.

Project progress, results and outcomes of funded projects will be communicated to RMOs and relevant parties by the STONZ team in consultation with the research applicant or primary investigator.

For open published research, STONZ would appreciate a short video/blurb promoting the research to be provided with the link to the research findings, for inclusion on the Research page of the STONZ website.

If the project involves the development of a product or technology such as an app or workplace tool, then final ownership and use of this must be agreed at the time of application. Conflicts of interest must be declared at application.