



## **Purpose of the Motu Research and Education Foundation**

The Motu Research and Education Foundation (the Foundation) was established in 2006. Our purpose is to fund and promote research into public policy issues affecting New Zealand without advocating an ideological or political position. Our belief is that high quality, unbiased and politically neutral research will inform rational debate and greatly contribute to quality public policy decision making for the benefit of all New Zealanders.

The aim of the Foundation is to support and promote quality economic research that provides a stronger platform for better public policy decision making, and to ensure that such research work is published and disseminated for widespread public use.

In pursuing these objectives, the Foundation co-operates with a range of people and organisations. We have a particular focus on co-operation and collaboration with our companion organisation, the Motu Economic and Public Policy Research Trust.

## **The Role of the Foundation**

Under our Trust Deed, the Foundation is able to meet the following purposes within New Zealand:

- Commission, carry out, and facilitate empirical and theoretical research into public policy issues of importance and relevance to New Zealand. In all cases, research supported by the Foundation must meet international academic standards and be suitable for publication in reputable academic journals;
- Ensuring existing knowledge, information and research about New Zealand public policy is readily accessible in New Zealand. This includes commissioning summaries and critical reviews of existing published work on public policy issues;
- Promoting the results of the Motu Economic and Public Policy Research Trust's research and knowledge through various publication channels including the internet, conferences, seminars, workshops, dialogue groups and teaching;
- Maintaining close links with international experts working on topics related to the Trust's purpose and collaborating with such experts;
- Advancing the Trust's work and purpose by facilitating the visits of relevant international experts;
- Promoting the charitable purposes of the Trust; and
- Improving the capability and ability of individual groups and institutions to carry out empirical and theoretical research on New Zealand public policy through training and collaboration initiatives, sponsorship of students or researchers, and the development of relevant databases.

## **Trustees of the Foundation**

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees, namely:

- Neil Green, Managing Partner, Senate Communications Counsel, Chair
- Dr Roderick Carr, Vice Chancellor University of Canterbury
- John Roberts, Managing Director, Veda Advantage
- Colin James, Chair, Motu Economic and Public Policy Research
- Howard Fancy, Director, Motu Economic and Public Policy Research

## **The Finances of the Foundation**

The Foundation undertakes no operational functions, nor do we aspire to carry out research. Our aim is to financially support world class economic research, support the building of research capabilities, and support quality dissemination that will significantly aid better public policy decision making.

We obtain our revenue through contributions from patrons and donations. Patrons contribute \$10,000 a year. We ask Patrons to commit to a three year funding cycle.

The Foundation has built up reserves of \$300,000 to date and is looking to build reserves of \$750,000 plus over the next five years to strengthen the influence of the Foundation and its work.

Motu's current patrons and supporters are Telecom NZ, Fletcher Building, Mighty River Power, Solid Energy, Beca, Department of Building and Housing, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Economic Development, and the Department of Labour. The Tindall Foundation is also a major supporter.

## **The Priorities of the Foundation**

To meet the objectives of the Foundation's Trust Deed, we have focussed on building the financial base of the Foundation. Our spending has looked to invest in and support the Motu Economic and Public Policy Research Trust to build its capability. In this way, the Foundation has contributed to the Motu Economic and Public Policy Research Trust to become a centre of economic research excellence. We also look to invest in and support broader economic research initiatives, capability, and research dissemination in New Zealand.

In particular we have:

- Supported dissemination of the Trust's research through underwriting the Motu Public Policy Seminar Series in Auckland and Wellington;
- Provided seed funding for the Trust's Research to develop its capacity in water research and longitudinal survey design;
- Supported research effort and capability through the annual funding of a research intern;
- Provided funding for a scholarship that supports a Māori student to undertake post graduate research;
- Supported international experts' visits to New Zealand;
- Provided forums for patrons and friends to discuss and engage with research findings and plans.

## **Future Objectives of the Foundation**

Four areas have been identified as investment priorities:

### **1. *Research leadership***

Funding will be allocated to support research leadership in environmental research, economic geography, impact evaluation, labour market economics and/or community development. Our funding will most likely take the form of supporting international experts to come to New Zealand to take part in conferences, workshops and public policy seminars.

### **2. *Research dissemination***

The Foundation will continue to support events and communication channels (print and online) to ensure that public policy research is readily accessible to those individuals, organisations and groups who can make use of its findings.

### **3. *Building research capability***

The Foundation will continue to invest in supporting young researchers. It will also support research infrastructure through investing in improved data sources.

### **4. *Supporting high quality research***

The Foundation will be willing to provide some funding to support new research areas through seed funding. Where applications for external funding prove successful, the Foundation has some expectations of the seed funding being repaid. The Foundation does not envisage making significant investments in this area until it has built its capital base to above \$500,000.

## **Other Objectives**

The Foundation is seeking to increase its patron numbers as part of an overall goal to increase the capital base of the Foundation and to increase its ability to support economic research of international quality and relevance to New Zealand.

## **Motu Economic and Public Policy Research Trust**

Motu Economic and Public Policy Research is a not-for-profit research institute that carries out high quality, long-term, socially beneficial research programmes. Since its inception in 2000 the institute has been recognised nationally and internationally for its excellence. It has been awarded four Marsden grants (a very rare feat), and led six Foundation for Research Science and Technology research programmes.

Its Senior Fellows have held both New Zealand and international professorial positions. Most recently Steve Stillman was a visiting professor at the University of Zurich and Suzi Kerr a visiting professor at Stanford University. Steven Stillman, Arthur Grimes and David Maré are adjunct professors at the University of Waikato. Both Andrew Coleman and Steve Stillman are currently teaching honours level economics papers at Victoria University. Andrew will also be teaching economics during summer school at the University of Otago.

Motu's research is strongly relevant to long term public policy issues. This is seen in recent research relating to infrastructure, labour market productivity, climate change, housing, the economics of Auckland and the intergenerational impacts of tax, savings and retirement policies.

Motu Research has excellent research networks, and freely disseminates all of its research findings. It works to provide leadership in the economic and public policy research communities in New Zealand – especially by supporting young researchers.

If you would like to view Motu’s research, see [www.motu.org.nz](http://www.motu.org.nz).

## **How you can help**

To continue to expand and consolidate the Foundation’s work, we need to continue to increase our capital base. There are three options we ask you to consider:

1. Becoming a patron of the Foundation. The level of funding support sought is \$10,000 + GST per annum for a commitment of three years;
2. Making a one-off donation; or
3. Making a bequest to the Foundation.

## **What it means to be a Patron**

Our patrons are the backbone of the Motu Research and Education Foundation. Your commitment provides an ongoing level of financial support that makes the Foundation’s work possible. Our patrons are contributing towards ensuring New Zealand has world class economic research capability. The research we support has an applied and long term focus. Such research is of international quality. It is independent both of the government of the day and from any ideological school of thought.

In short, our patrons are helping develop and strengthen independent research and dissemination capabilities that will assist New Zealand to reach its full potential.

As a patron you and your staff will:

- Have access to Motu research working papers and other research based material of interest to you;
- Be regularly informed of the activities of the Foundation and the Research Trust;
- Be invited to seminars and workshops held by Motu Research;
- Be invited to periodic patron forums where topical issues are discussed or patron views are sought;
- Through the director and/or senior fellows, have opportunities to discuss issues of interest; and
- Be recognised as a patron in the publicity material associated with both the Foundation and the Research Trust.

*Thank you for your interest in the Motu Research and Education Foundation. If you would like to support Motu in its aim of building research and policy capability, please visit us at [www.motufoundation.org.nz](http://www.motufoundation.org.nz), or email [emma.jellicoe@motu.org.nz](mailto:emma.jellicoe@motu.org.nz) for more information.*