

XRB's Proposed Research Projects for 2016-2019

Introduction

The External Reporting Board's (XRB) Strategic Plan includes a specific strategy to *Undertake User-Needs Research*. The purpose of this strategy is to enhance the XRB Board's understanding of user-needs in New Zealand so as to help inform future decisions about the standards frameworks, as well as inform discussions on policy matters, both locally and in the international arena. The strategy involves undertaking organised empirical research into the financial and non-financial information needs and assurance needs of users of financial reports of entities using XRB standards.

The XRB plans to outsource the research projects listed below in the 2016-2019 period.

The dates for the release of the Request for Proposal (RFP) and the timing of when the projects are expected to take place are estimates at this stage. It is intended to give those interested in submitting an RFP a broad indication of when the RFPs are expected to be issued and when the projects are expected to take place¹.

<i>Researching Non- financial Information Needs of Users of Reports of Large (ie Tier 1 and Tier 2) For-Profit Entities</i>	
Category of research	For-Profit Users: Needs of Users of For-profit Entity Reports
Estimated RFP release date	Deferred
Estimated timing of project	Deferred

The purpose of this project is to research the non-financial information needs of users of the general purpose financial reports (GPFR) of for-profit entities i.e. for-profit entities that are large and are required to prepare GPFR that comply with XRB's standards. These are for-profit entities in Tier 1 and Tier 2 that prepare GPFR that comply with XRB's standards.

The objective of the research is to:

- (a) review the literature to determine what non-financial information is needed by users of the GPFR of for-profit entities in Tier 1 and Tier 2;
- (b) broadly establish the key user groups of the GPFR of for-profit entities in Tier 1 and Tier 2; and
- (c) empirically establish, through sample-based research, what non-financial information is of most interest to key user groups of the GPFR of for-profit entities in Tier 1 and Tier 2.

The results of this research will be used as a basis for considering whether non-financial reporting standards for for-profit entities should be developed in the future, and if so the nature of that reporting.

¹ The timing of each project will be confirmed when the RFP for each research project is released.

<i>Researching Information Needs of Users of Tier 1 Public Sector PBE Financial Reports</i>	
Category of research	Public Sector Users: Needs of Users of the Financial Reports of Public Sector PBEs in Tier 1
Estimated RFP release date	End of 2017
Estimated timing of project	2018 to 2019

The purpose of the project is to research the information needs of users of the general purpose financial reports (GPFR) of public sector PBEs in Tier 1.

The objective of the research is to:

- (a) identify the types of entities that make up the population of public sector PBEs in Tier 1;
- (b) review the literature on the information needs of users of the GPFR of public sector PBEs in Tier 1; and
- (c) empirically establish, through sample-based research, what information is of most interest to key user groups of the GPFR of public sector PBEs in Tier 1.

The results of this research will be used as input into a future review of whether user needs are being appropriately met by Tier 1 PBE Standards. The results of this research will also be used, where appropriate, to provide feedback to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB).

<i>Researching Information Needs of Users of Tier 2 Public Sector PBE Financial Reports</i>	
Category of research	Public Sector Users: Needs of Users of the Financial Reports of Public Sector PBEs in Tier 2
Estimated RFP release date	Mid-2018
Estimated timing of project	2018 to 2019

The purpose of the project is to research the information needs of users of general purpose financial reports (GPFR) of public sector PBEs in Tier 2.

The objective of the research is to:

- (a) Identify the types of entities that make up the population of public sector PBEs in Tier 2; and
- (b) Review the literature on the information needs of users of the GPFR of public sector PBEs in Tier 2; and
- (c) empirically establish, through sample-based research, what information is of most interest to key user groups of the GPFR of public sector PBEs in Tier 2.

The results of this research will be used as input into a future review of whether user needs are being appropriately met by Tier 2 PBE Accounting Requirements.