

## **New Zealand First Research, Science and Technology Policy**

Spokesperson: Dail Jones MP

With such a large proportion of the funding of research in New Zealand coming from the government (with over \$300m going directly to Crown Research Institutes (CRIs)), clearly the state must play a key role in leading Research and Development (R&D). However we are unsure how much benefit is derived from this investment.

The key to a successful research and development policy is the maintenance of balance between genuine blue sky research and research activity which will directly lead to economic advancement. New Zealand must focus its limited research funds where it has a competitive advantage, primarily in expanding export potential.

Total R&D expenditure in New Zealand has hovered under 1.2% of GDP (compared with an over 2.2% average for the OECD) and further incentives and investment are required.

New Zealand First will:

- provide tax incentives for businesses to engage in research and development leading to innovation and export growth;
- focus Public Good Research funding more tightly on innovation and on increased export earnings;
- increase the proportion of tertiary tuition subsidies for specific courses to increase the number of appropriately qualified graduates (e.g. science and technology);
- introduce further scholarships (especially at post-graduate level) to ensure that we keep our best students and provide for research and development expertise;
- expand publicly-funded topo-culture research through rural New Zealand;
- assist New Zealand companies in developing new technology and facilitate technology transfer;
- provide improved lower cost intellectual property protection for New Zealand-based innovators;
- provide and encourage venture capital sources for New Zealand innovations; and,
- provide assistance in the marketing of new or innovative products.'