Getting Good Ideas Funded Using NESTT

Presentation by: Kate Meere, Funds Advisor
Team Manager, Auckland UniServices Ltd

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What is NESTT?

- Rapid process redesign methodology
- To develop, socialise and validate business process improvements
- A five-week journey
- Results in 20-day, 20-week and 20-month initiatives

**Navigate**
- Contextualise the process

**Expand**
- Ideation towards 20 days / 20 weeks / 20 months

**Strengthen**
- User testing and business cases

**Tune and Take-off**
- User testing and business cases
When to run a NESTT?

- Target a difficult challenge
- Solution is not obvious
- Get over being stuck
- Be an accelerator within a large initiative
- Create momentum
- Quick outcomes required
# Why use NESTT?

### Shortcomings of existing approaches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exclusive focus on pain points (reactive)</th>
<th>Time consuming</th>
<th>Methodology over outcomes</th>
<th>Lack of ongoing interactivity and transparency</th>
<th>Limited end-user engagement</th>
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**Why use NESTT?**

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**Shortcomings of existing approaches**

- Exclusive focus on pain points (reactive)
- Time consuming
- Methodology over outcomes
- Lack of ongoing interactivity and transparency
- Limited end-user engagement
A fresh look at our contestable submissions process

Investigate process improvements to enable and empower our excellent Research Services teams
**Week one**
- Navigate
  - Develop shared vision
  - Explore current state, problems and pain points
  - Share ideas for change
  - Imagine future state

**Week two**
- Expand
  - Develop many ideas for change using different ways of thinking
  - Group and begin prioritisation of ideas

**Week three**
- Strengthen
  - Impact, resource, feasibility assessment and prioritisation
  - Start developing a "case for change on a page" for each prioritised change

**Week four**
- Tune
  - Finalise "case for change on a page" for each proposal to be presented to panel
  - Test assumptions & validate cases

**Week five**
- Takeoff
  - Decision-making panel session
  - Implementation planning
Week one - Navigate

- Initial vision-setting session with NESTT team, panel, sponsors and facilitators
- NESTT team gets to know each other while imagining what we would like the process to be
- NESTT team shares some of their ideas for change – red post it notes signifying pain points
Week two - Expand

- Listening to our researchers

Captured live by our visual artist Amanda Schreyer
Week three - Strengthen

- Researcher feedback

- Presented our big ideas to the Research Service Leaders Community of Practice

- Regroup ideas into what can be achieved in 20 days, 20 weeks, 20 months

- Work on a new process incorporating the ideas generated in the NESTT
Week four and five – Tune and Takeoff

- Develop a case on a page using the four themes
- Decision-making panel session
- Implementation planning
Four themes

- Ideas, not just applications
- Time & resource efficiency
- Connecting research
- Research Market Intelligence
Progress on our four themes

**Ideas, not just applications**
- Shift from an application-driven support model to one that prioritises the development and funding of ideas

**Time & resource efficiency**
- Automation business case underway for CV outputs

**Research Market Intelligence**
- Changes to research governance model to align with research strategy and the sharing of research market intelligence
Summary – feedback from our stakeholders

Good to see relationships being built and/or strengthened.

Panel members and stakeholders

Agreed that the recommendations coming out of the NESTT were worth implementing.

Researchers

Really pleased to see reps from your team, BDMs, and FIRST on the same page, with much more understanding of other teams’ work.

pleased to see a focus on this process and liked being engaged to give their thoughts.