



1 August 2016

Dear colleagues,

A Natural Hazards Social Science Panel (NHSSP) is being established, addressing the need for social science expertise to support decision makers before, during and after natural hazard events. This Panel will be similar in nature to the Tsunami Expert Panel and the NZ Volcanic Science Advisory Group, both of which have been active during and after related natural hazard events, and provide an effective framework for the coordination of advice to decision makers and agencies. The NHSSP defines this advice as the sharing of expertise, knowledge, views, information and intelligence, and not the delivery of specific decision making recommendations.

The NHSSP will provide expertise in Disaster Risk Management social science, with an emphasis on supporting response and recovery operations, therefore requiring prioritisation of (but not limited to) the following fields:

- Risk communication;
- Behavioural sciences/response;
- Psychosocial support and recovery.

In addition to providing social science expertise, each Panel member will be expected to act as a conduit to the wider research community within their own institution and disciplinary networks, to source additional expertise for the Panel as and when required. Thus, Panel members are expected to be team players, with experience in the collaboration and coordination of large interdisciplinary groups.

On behalf of the NHSSP, the Natural Hazards Research Platform (NHRP) is now inviting nominations for inaugural members of the Panel. It is hoped that Panel membership will include representatives from each of Massey, Canterbury, Victoria, Waikato, Auckland, Lincoln and Otago Universities, as well as representatives from GNS Science, NIWA, other research organisations, Māori Social Science, along with MCDEM and NHRP.

Please find attached the draft NHSSP Terms of Reference, which will be reviewed and finalised by the Panel after it is established. Panel members are expected to attend at least one Panel meeting a year and also respond when the Panel is activated, including for exercises.

Institutions are encouraged to put forward multiple nominations if possible, from which one Panel member will be appointed by the independent Selection Committee. We request that each institution coordinate and submit their nominations; nominations from individuals will not be accepted.

Nominations must include a biographical statement and CV for each proposed Panel member, demonstrating how they meet the following selection criteria:

- Panel members will ideally have a PhD and a minimum of three years' experience in their discipline, or for non-doctoral members a minimum of ten years' experience in their discipline.
- Panel members will be expected to have strong existing links to the wider research community within their own institution and disciplinary networks, to source additional expertise for the Panel as and when needed.
- Panel members must be team players; evidence of collaboration with and coordination of large interdisciplinary groups, along with excellent communication skills is required.
- Panel members should be competent independent investigators in a scientific or research specialty, relevant to the NHSSP (in particular: Risk communication; Behavioural sciences/response; Psychosocial support and recovery). Assessment of this competence will be based on the quality of research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals, and other significant scientific activities, achievements, and honours.

Nominations must be emailed to NHRP@gns.cri.nz by 5.00 pm on Thursday 1 September 2016.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hannah Brackley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue background.

Hannah Brackley
Interim Platform Manager