

## Funding Decision Appeal

Ageing Well undertakes to provide unbiased, equitable and consistent treatment during assessment and decision making for all research proposals. The appeal process provides the opportunity for an applicant to seek reconsideration of a funding decision, where there is **evidence of a procedural error during review of the application**.

1. Grounds for appeal against a funding decision made by the Governance Group are limited to one area; that a proposal has been disadvantaged through the assessment process, compared to other proposals undergoing the same assessment process.
2. An appeal must come from the first named investigator (the programme leader), and be supported by the investigator's Research Office, or equivalent.
3. An appeal must be lodged within one month from notification of the funding decision.
4. An appeal must be presented in writing, addressed to the Chair of the Ageing Well Governance Group, and sent to [ageingwell@otago.ac.nz](mailto:ageingwell@otago.ac.nz). The appeal should detail the evidence of procedural failure. The onus is on the appellant to show that a procedural error occurred.
5. An appeal will be considered expeditiously by the Chair of the Governance Group, using whatever process the Chair deems appropriate. The decision will be notified in writing to the appellant and the relevant Research Office. The decision is final.
6. For the sake of clarity, the following are unlikely to be considered as appropriate grounds for appeal:
  - a. differences of opinion between external reviewer(s) and the assessment panel;
  - b. the quality, or the number, of external reviewer reports;
  - c. the failure of the proposal to provide required information, as specified in the Request for Proposal and the Ageing Well Research Programme Full Proposal Guidelines; and
  - d. the membership of the assessing panel.