



How panels assess proposals

~~“How to think like a panel”~~

Panels should be designed for diversity

kotahitanga – collective action through bringing together diverse groups for a shared goal

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The Panel

- Assess applications – involves:
 - Understanding criteria and priorities of round
 - Scoring
 - Written feedback
 - Participating in panel meetings
- Bring diverse expertise and experience
 - Range of technical backgrounds
 - Diversity – gender/cultural
 - Roles across a range of sectors
- Declare conflicts of interest
- Adhere to confidentiality agreements



The Roles

- Chair
- Panel
 - The technical expert
 - The system expert
 - The cultural/ethics expert
 - The editor
 - The optimist
 - The end-user
 - The advocate



What is a panel looking for?

- Clarity – Purpose, problem, objective, approach, outputs, path to uptake, impact
- Research context – how does this fit into existing work? Is it addressing a gap?
- Right skillsets in the team to deliver? If not, what is the plan to develop it?
- Is the approach appropriate? Is ethics approval required?
- Risks? Are they acceptable?
- Does the team have the relationships required? Iwi/hapū, councils, other end-users
- Commercial implications
- Does it spark my interest?



Tips for writing proposals

- Get to the point quickly
- Check your assumptions
- Be honest about the limitations
- Be aspirational but not too ambitious
- Be realistic with your budget – check what you can spend money on
- Mistakes are distracting and raise questions
- Talk to your research management office to get support early
- Talk to previous successful applicants

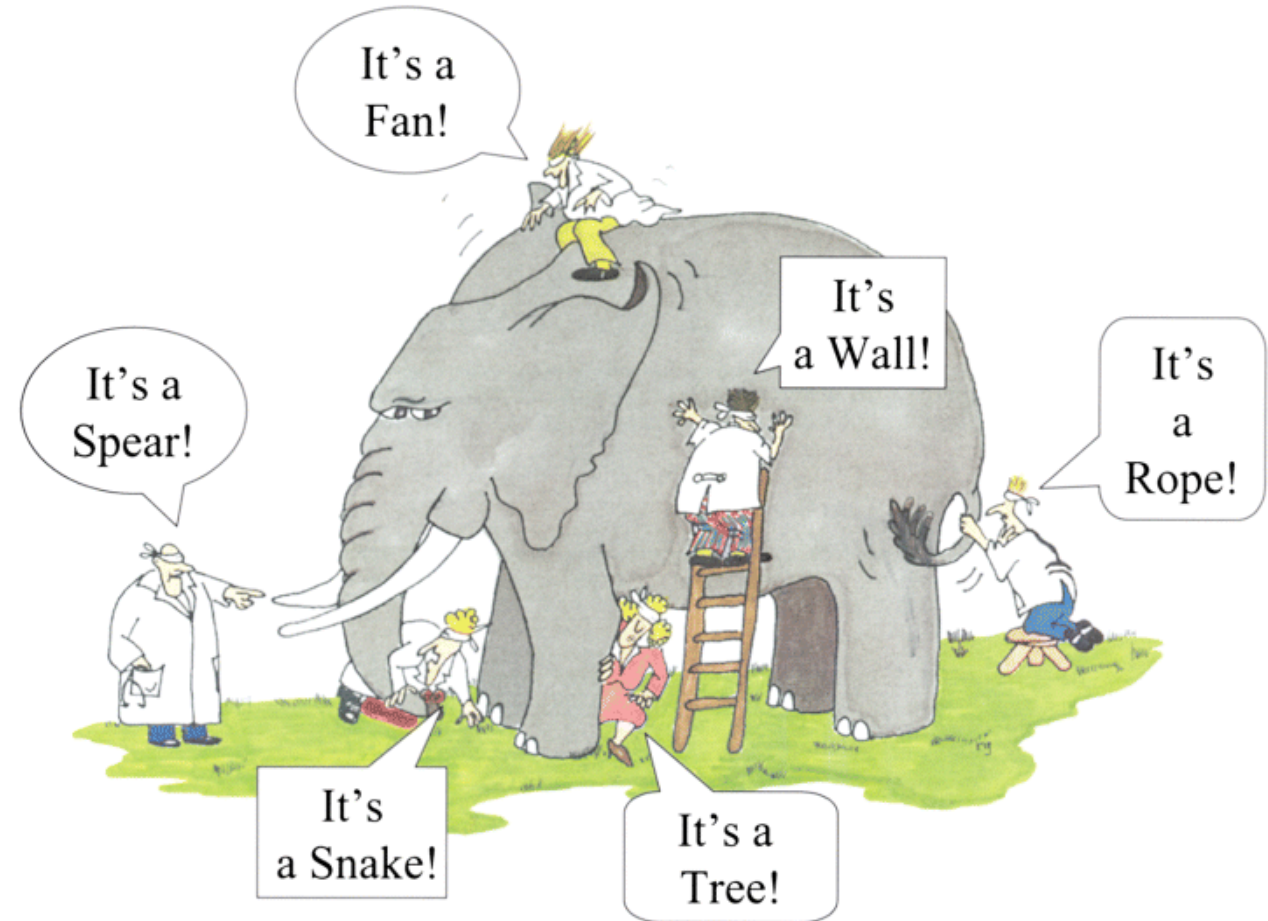
“I, Professor Hercules Poirot, can finally reveal the point of my proposal”



The ‘mystery suspense’ proposal

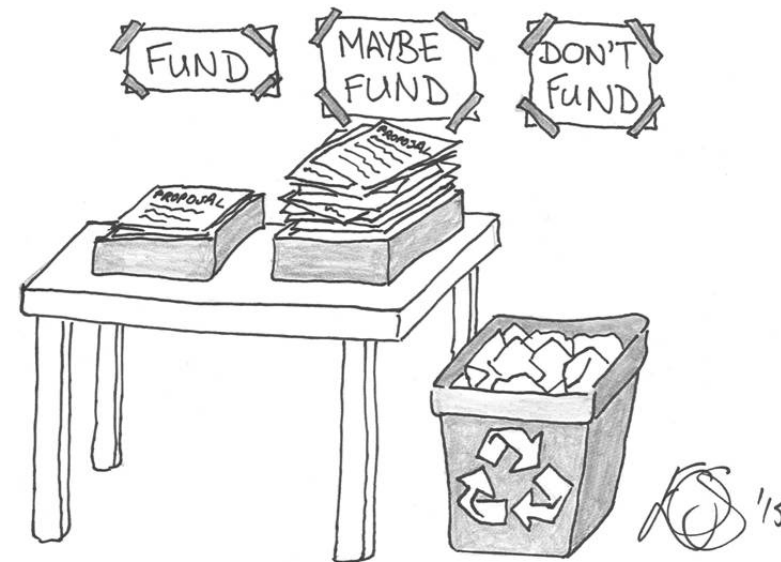
Tips for writing proposals

- Know who is on the panel
- Write for everyone on the panel not just the technical expert
- Understand the evaluation criteria
- Get friends and colleagues to read your proposal
- Make the panel's job easy
- Please graciously accept the panel/funder decision – do not approach panel members directly for feedback



Don't try to think like the panel...

Make it easy for the panel to think about your proposal



Review panel categories.

Thank you

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