

Mid-year report template for Community Projects and Internet Research - to be sent to gertrud@internetz.net.nz on the date specified in your contract

Grant reference number:	IR20160029
Name of recipient	Dr William Liu
Name of organisation (if applicable)	Auckland University of Technology
Title of project/research	Current State of Broadband Usage in Rural Communities (eBroadenMe)
Amount of funding received	\$15,000
<i>Budget details</i>	<p><i>List a breakdown of any expenditure to date and compare it with your expected expenditure</i></p> <p>(i) Attending NetHui2017 in Auckland, all the team members (five students) : 55x5= 275</p> <p>(ii) Field trip (3 team members + William) to Tau Henare Marae Pipiwai*, the cost is 523.8 NZ\$</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food: 120 - Transport: 403.8 <p>So the total is 798.8NZ\$</p> <p>*This area is not in the official map and it is about 40 minutes from Whangarei. It has been identified as a not-well-connected rural area during the rural connectivity session in NetHui 2017 in Auckland. A lady named Delaraine attended the conference so as to raise their community voices on not-well-connected in their region, thus the team did the follow up and visited their Marae to get 1st hand information there.</p> <p>Yes, we have achieved what was expected with our spending so far in the project.</p> <p><i>Please account for any areas of overspend or underspend.</i></p> <p>No underspending/overspending has occurred yet. The most budget has been reserved for transport/accommodation/gear hire during the project execution phase (i.e., conducting face-to-face survey and interview) which is about to commence from February 2018.</p>

	Our project ethical application is just approved by AUT on 1 of February 2018.
Timeline update	<p><i>How far along your timeline are you? Are there any significant changes to your timeline?</i></p> <p>Based on our project timeline, we are in the execution and control phase now. We will start the survey as soon as the project ethical approval is granted (on 1 of February 2018). This was originally planned earlier and by this point we would have already gathered data from three areas. Analysis of the survey data will be done as soon as we gather the required data and we can start formulating our interview questions from there. Travelling to conduct the collection was supposed to be completed by March 2018 but due to the delay, we will need to continue the survey data collection for a few more weeks.</p> <p>There are some changes in our timeline occurred with our initial planning stages. We anticipated acquiring our ethical approval for public interaction before the end of 2017 but unfortunately had to delay the application submission until January 2018 due to the university ethics committee being unavailable before the end of the academic year. This issue has been resolved and we will catch up the scheduled timelines to meet the final due time of the project.</p>
Achievements to date	<p><i>Please outline your positive outcomes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge acquired regarding New Zealand's Rural Broadband Initiatives (RBI stage I and II) and also build the online knowledge database including all the related documents such as technical papers, reports, articles and project daily notes - We have learned the survey mechanics and social research knowledge - avoiding bias, ensuring fair & neutral interaction with participants etc. We have applied these learnings to get our rural connectivity survey designed. - Engagement with rural internet users in Whangarei for subject exploration. - Rural broadband internet usage survey designed. - Survey deployment tool (Qualtrics) selected and mock trials for testing underway. - Geographic rural areas based on RBI development have been selected for next physical visiting and conducting the face-to-face survey and interview.
Difficulties to date	<p><i>Please outline any difficulties you've had so far and how you're managing them</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time Management across the project team. We are managing this with consistent communication on multiple channels with all team members as well as university timetable considerations. - Ethics approval from the university has also been difficult as it has delayed our timeline. We have been required for the additional changes to ensure it was compliant with the university ethics policy. We have since adjusted our project timeline to reflect this, as well as to ensure we have enough time to both execute and review the results of our research. – This issue has been resolved and the ethical application has just been approved.
Findings/learnings to date	<p><i>What are you learning? What findings have you made so far?</i></p> <p>Since the survey has not officially been conducted at this point of time, no technical findings yet</p> <p>Our research will be based on phase 1 of the Rural Broadband Initiative. We have set a plan to capture data from the different rural areas which experienced development in stage I of the RBI.</p>
Do you anticipate their being anything media-worthy in your project/research*	<p><i>Any outstanding discoveries, good-news stories or unique work (in your opinion?) *Please note we may use this information in a media release.</i></p> <p>Due to the research focusing on rural internet users, we anticipate the results to be particularly useful to entities interested in engaging with rural internet users or education/training providers in rural areas. We believe the results of this project will be building on existing rural based internet research such as the Auckland Rural Broadband Survey 2016 due to its physical engagement with the public. Once the project team reviews the survey data, we could find some new discovery or finding that could indicate ways to help rural communities make better use the internet or identify barriers which hinder them. These findings will be media-worthy for InternetNZ to help promoting and sharing with wider communities.</p>