



February 2007

## PBRF Sector Update

This note provides an update on the Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF). It includes information on:

- 2006 PBRF Quality Evaluation Panel meetings – TEC thanks to panellists
- Funding allocations
- Timeline for reporting of results of 2006 PBRF Quality Evaluation
- Interpreting the results of the 2006 PBRF Quality Evaluation

### 2006 PBRF Quality Evaluation Panel meetings – TEC thanks to panellists

The TEC would like to acknowledge the work of the PBRF peer review panels for the 2006 PBRF Quality Evaluation. The 12 panels were established in mid 2005 and each panel had between 9 and 23 researchers appointed to act as peer reviewers and selected to provide expert coverage of the subject areas.

From September to November 2006 the panels worked conscientiously and with integrity to assess the evidence portfolios (EPs) of their peers. The panels worked together with specialist advisors to assess the EPs that were submitted for assessment by the PBRF eligible Tertiary Education Organisations (TEOs) that elected to participate in the 2006 PBRF Quality Evaluation.

The task of assessing EPs in accordance with the 2006 PBRF Guidelines required a significant time commitment and the TEC would like to commend panel members for this effort.

### PBRF Funding Allocations

The TEC is pleased to confirm that TEOs participating in the PBRF have been advised of their indicative funding allocations for the first four months of the 2007 calendar year.

The projected PBRF pool for the 2007 calendar year is \$230.7M and has been allocated to TEOs on the basis of their performance in the 2003 Quality Evaluation, and declared performance in the Research Degree Completions and External Research Income measures for the 2003, 2004 and 2005 calendar years.

Following confirmation of the results of the 2006 Quality Evaluation in April 2007, the TEC will adjust these indicative funding allocations which will be reflected in payments to TEOs from May 2007. The TEC reminds

participating TEOs that because the PBRF pool is allocated on the basis of relative performance by TEOs, it is possible that there will be a change in PBRF funding for some TEOs.

The TEC also intends to advise TEOs of the wash-up payments for the 2005 and 2006 calendar years at the same time.

### **Timeline for reporting of results of the 2006 PBRF Quality Evaluation**

The TEC is completing the moderation and data verification of the results of the 2006 Quality Evaluation.

The summary of the results for all TEOs will be reported in the final report. This will be released in April 2007. The confirmed Quality Categories for each eligible staff member will be sent to the relevant participating TEOs. The reporting of the results of the 2006 Quality Evaluation will ensure public access to a wide range of information relating to research performance and activities of the participating TEOs.

Detailed information on the reporting framework for the 2006 Quality Evaluation can be found from page 203 of the 2006 PBRF Guidelines. [www.tec.govt.nz/funding/research/pbrf/guidelines.htm](http://www.tec.govt.nz/funding/research/pbrf/guidelines.htm)

### **Interpreting the results of the 2006 PBRF Quality Evaluation**

As noted above, at the conclusion of the 2006 Quality Evaluation, TEOs that have submitted EPs will be notified of the Quality Categories that the peer review panels have assigned to individual EPs from that TEO.

It is assumed that each TEO will inform individual staff members about the Quality Category assigned to their EP. There will be no public release by the TEC of the Quality Categories assigned to individual staff members' EPs.

The TEC notes that the release of the results of the 2006 Quality Evaluation may have an immediate impact on individual academics. The TEC would like to encourage TEOs to work with staff on understanding and interpreting the Quality Categories. Researchers may be anxious about the Quality Category they are assigned. It may be desirable to remind staff of the focus of the assessment was on their *research*, and only on the information contained in their EP. The Quality Evaluation does not measure all of the other contributions they make.

Generalised descriptors of the Quality Categories may be found on page 149 and 150 of the 2006 PBRF Guidelines. It is particularly important to note that the Quality Categories of "R" and "R(NE)" do not necessarily mean that staff are not engaged in research activity, rather that on the basis of the evidence presented to them, the peer review panels were not able to award a funded Quality Category.

## Contact Us

If you are not familiar with it, or already signed up, please visit the TEC website at [www.tec.govt.nz](http://www.tec.govt.nz) and sign up to **TEC Now** for all PBRF related information - this will ensure you are automatically notified of any changes or additions related to PBRF.

If you have any questions on this note or other implementation matters please contact the team at [pbrfinfo@tec.govt.nz](mailto:pbrfinfo@tec.govt.nz) or phone the PBRF Help line on (04) 462 5338. Faxes can be sent to the main TEC fax on (04) 462 5400.