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## RQF UPDATE

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### ISSUE

To provide a brief update on the status of the RQF.

### BACKGROUND

#### 1. Timeline

The Research Quality Framework is still progressing according to the timeline originally set out by DEST. This timeline is unrealistically tight and it is difficult to see how this can be achieved.

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- Q1 2007 - Assessment Panel Chairs identified
  - Q2 2007 - DEST/UNSW RQF Trial
    - Assessment panel members identified by DEST
    - DEST consultation with the sector on details of the RQF
  - Q3 2007- Final DEST guidelines for the RQF will be released
    - Draft UNSW RQF Performance Portfolios assembled
  - Q4 2007- UNSW to provide "Expression of Intent" to submit to the RQF
    - (includes draft profile of each - projected numbers of staff and disciplines)*
  - Q1 2008- UNSW's Performance Portfolios submitted to DEST for assessment
  - Q2 2008- RQF Panels to start to assess research performance
  - Q1 2009- RQF impacts on University funding (possibly phased in)
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#### 2. Panels and Panel Chairs

The Chairs of the various discipline panels have been announced (a list is attached). The membership of the panels has not yet been announced.

#### 3. Critical Issues Still to be Resolved

DEST has indicated that the principal issues still to be resolved include:

- a. **Level A's** – whether these should be included or not.
- b. **Conjoints (etc) and staff on leave** – still unresolved. With conjoints – DEST is clearly conscious of not supporting research outside its portfolio – they have made it clear that staff employed by institutions who received IRIS funding would not be able to "double-dip".
- c. **Staff in multiple groups** – there is still discussion as to whether staff could be included in more than one group. This is important for the Go8 where there are more staff likely to be in this situation and more groups.

#### **4. Supporting IT Systems**

We still have real concerns that it may not be possible to get the necessary IT systems up and running, tested and reliable according to the published timeline for the RQF. If there are “bugs” in the system, then the data coming out will be flawed – the assessors may not be assessing reliable data and making the process less robust. If the system is not reliably tested then the outcomes of the RQF will be unreliable and subject to criticism.

#### **5. Impact on Funding**

There has still been no indication as to how funding might flow as a consequence of the RQF. It is highly likely that we will not know the detail of how funding will be linked to performance in the assessment before we have to make our submissions. This makes planning our RQF portfolio quite difficult.

#### **6. Copyright**

This is a major issue for the RQF since the assessment actually requires us to provide access to published material where we have no control over the copyright in most cases. DEST has assured us that what will be required is that we need to identify the copyright holder for each piece of work. This in itself will be a significant job since this is not normally something that we have collected routinely.

#### **7. Status at UNSW**

- (i) **Trials.** We conducted 3 full trials at UNSW (i) quantum computing; (ii) Geography; (iii) Interactive media. These provided a real test of the logistics of assembling portfolios and in particular highlighted the difficulty of dealing with research outputs which are not just books and journal articles (like exhibitions and performances).
- (ii) **Groups.** We are at the stage of assembling our staff into groups. It appears that we will probably have 120-150 groups. As we have gone through the exercise, the natural pressure is to form smaller groups. We expect that this will be complete by the end of August and we will have identified a leader for each group.

#### **8. The Federal Election**

The Federal Opposition has indicated that it will not continue with the RQF should it be elected at the next election. There is no real indication as to (if anything) what could replace it. The Go8 has lobbied the Minister to delay the introduction of the RQF firstly because it realistically cannot be done properly within the timeline proposed and secondly because we must ramp up resources dedicated to the RQF very significantly over the next few months and it would be a waste of resources if the RQF were scrapped.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Please note the update on the status of the RQF.

Professor Les Field  
**Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)**

## RQF Panel Chairs

	Panel Name	Chair	Current Institution	Comments
1	Biological Sciences	Professor Peter Langridge	University of Adelaide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently CEO of the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics.</li> <li>• Member of the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee of the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator</li> <li>• Member of the scientific advisory group for European Union Research Programs and for the Generation Challenge Program.</li> <li>• Convener of the International Triticeae Mapping Initiative (ITMI)</li> <li>• Until 2002 was the Research Director for the CRC for Molecular Plant Breeding.</li> <li>• His research has focused on the application of molecular biology to crop improvement.</li> <li>• Expert in plant genomics, and genetic engineering</li> </ul>
2	Physical, Chemical & Earth Sciences	Professor Erich Weigold	La Trobe University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research).</li> <li>• Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science</li> <li>• Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.</li> <li>• Former Executive Director for ARC Physics, Chemistry and Geoscience, with responsibility for the Centres of Excellence Scheme</li> <li>• Former Director of the Research School of Physical Sciences and Engineering at the Australian National University.</li> <li>• Expert in Atomic physics, quantum chemistry, and electronic structure of matter</li> </ul>
3	Engineering & Technology	Professor Max Lu	The University of Qld	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current ARC Federation Fellow and holds the Chair of Nanotechnology in Chemical Engineering at the University of Queensland.</li> <li>• Founding Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Functional Nanomaterials.</li> <li>• Former member of the ARC's College of Experts from 2002-2004</li> <li>• Has served on a number of working groups of the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC), as well as DEST and DITR reference groups on nanotechnology strategy, innovation policy and international science linkages.</li> <li>• Expert in chemical engineering, including nanoparticles and nanoporous materials for clean energy and water applications.</li> </ul>
4	Mathematical & Information Sciences &	Professor Ian Petersen	UNSW (ADFA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current ARC Australian Professorial Fellow</li> <li>• Former ARC Executive Director for Mathematics, Information and Communication for the ARC from 2002-2004.</li> </ul>

	Technology			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) for the University of New South Wales in 2004.</li> <li>• Fellow, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers</li> <li>• Fellow, Institution of Engineers Australia, Chartered Professional Engineer</li> <li>• Member, Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics</li> </ul>
5	Agriculture, Veterinary, Food & Environmental Sciences	Emeritus Professor David R. Lindsay	Retired, formerly with the University of Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honorary Senior Research Fellow at UWA</li> <li>• Former Deputy Director for the Premium Quality Wool CRC</li> <li>• Has played an important role in the development of both state and federal policy in the area of primary industries and has served on numerous national review panels.</li> <li>• Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.</li> <li>• Fellow of the Australian Society of Animal Production.</li> </ul>
6	Clinical Sciences & Clinical Physiology	Professor Brandon Wainwright	University of Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Director of the Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) at the University of Queensland.</li> <li>• Previous Deputy Director (Research) of the IMB.</li> <li>• From 1996 to 2003 was the Chair of the Project and/or Program Grant Committees of the NHMRC, as well as being a member of the Research Executive.</li> <li>• Expert in the are of the use of genomic approaches to dissect the basis of common genetic disease.</li> </ul>
7	Public Health & Health Services	Professor Terry Nolan	University of Melbourne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently head of the School of Population Health at the University of Melbourne and Associate Dean in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences.</li> <li>• Current head of the Vaccine and Immunisation Research Group, a joint program of the University of Melbourne and Murdoch Children's Research Institute</li> <li>• Current Director of the Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Child and Adolescent Immunisation.</li> <li>• Former member of NHMRC's Research Committee for nine years where he contributed significantly to thinking on the measurement of research quality.</li> </ul>

8	Psychology, Psychiatry, Neurological, Behavioural & Cognitive Sciences	Professor Paul Burnett	Charles Sturt Uni.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Graduate Training) at Charles Sturt University.</li> <li>• Expert in the area of childrens' self-concepts, self-esteem, self-talk, childhood depression, decision-making, bereavement reactions, suicide and the wish to hasten death in the terminally ill.</li> <li>• Has five degrees in Education and Psychology with a PhD in Counsellor Education.</li> <li>• Operated a general private psychology practice that involved the assessment and treatment of adults and children.</li> <li>• He has worked as a Counsellor, Counselling Psychologist and Educational and Developmental Psychologist.</li> <li>• He has been a Registered Primary Teacher and Psychologist in Queensland</li> <li>• Member of the Australian Psychological Society.</li> </ul>
9	Social Sciences & Politics	Professor Graeme Hugo	Uni.of Adelaide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Federation Fellow</li> <li>• Professor of the Discipline of Geography and Environmental Studies and Director of the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographical Information Systems at the University of Adelaide.</li> <li>• Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia</li> <li>• President of the Australian Population Association.</li> <li>• Former member of the National Population Council and Chair of the ARC's Expert Advisory Committee on the Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences.</li> </ul>
10	Economics, Commerce & Management	Professor Ian Palmer	UUTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Associate Dean (Research) and a Professor of Management.</li> <li>• Former President of the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management (ANZAM)</li> <li>• Fellow of ANZAM.</li> <li>• Former International Representative and a Board Member of the Organization Development &amp; Change Division of the U.S. Academy of Management.</li> <li>• Expert in organizational analysis, design and change and, in particular, new forms of organizing. He has a special interest in the use of metaphors and the structuring effect of language on management practice</li> </ul>
11	Law, Education & Professional Practices	Professor Hilary Charlesworth	ANU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current ARC Federation Fellow, Professor and Director of the Centre for International Governance and Justice</li> <li>• Inaugural President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of International Law.</li> <li>• Has worked with various non-governmental human rights organisations on ways to implement international human rights standards and was chair of the ACT Government's inquiry into an ACT bill of rights, which culminated in the adoption of the ACT Human Rights Act 2004.</li> <li>• Expert in international law and human rights law, particularly the promotion of democracy and justice after conflict, the relevance of feminist theory to understanding international law, the structure of the international human rights system and the protection of human rights in Australia.</li> </ul>

12	Humanities	Professor Iain McCalman	Sydney Uni.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Federation Fellow</li> <li>• Fellow of the Royal Historical Society</li> <li>• Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia</li> <li>• Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities where he was President from 2001-2004.</li> <li>• Former Director of the Humanities Research Council at the Australian National University from 1995 until July 2003.</li> <li>• In February 2005, was appointed to the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council.</li> <li>• He chaired an inquiry into Creativity and the Innovation Economy, presenting the report to Prime Minister and Cabinet in December 2005.</li> </ul>
13	Creative Arts, Design & Built Environment	Professor Sue Rowley	University of Technology, Sydney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Research) of the University of Technology Sydney</li> <li>• Foundation Professor of Contemporary Australian Art History and Head of the School of Art History and Theory at the University of New South Wales.</li> <li>• Former President of the Australian Council of University Art and Design Schools (ACUADS),</li> <li>• Former Chair of the Board of Object: Australian Centre for Craft and Design and a member of the Australia Council's Visual Arts and Craft Board National Infrastructure Committee.</li> <li>• Former Executive Director for Humanities and Creative Arts at the ARC from February 2001 to May 2004.</li> <li>• Served on the Humanities discipline panel of the ARC Expert Advisory Committee from 1999-2000.</li> <li>• Expert in contemporary art, craft and design resulted in both publications and curatorship of international touring exhibitions of contemporary Australian art, craft and design.</li> </ul>