

PBRF Consultation Paper 11: Reporting the Results of the PBRF Quality Evaluation 2026

Due: 16 June 2023

Link to survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7TZ35CK>

Questions 1-5 pertain to demographic information

Q.6 Do you have any comments on the proposed statement on the purpose of reporting the results of Quality Evaluation 2026?

TEU Response
<p>TEU supports the minor change to the statement on the purpose of reporting. However, regarding the second bullet-point in para 31 ("to provide value to the sector"), we recommend that specificity surrounding what is meant by 'value' in the context is included in the statement.</p> <p>Without this specificity, the purpose is vague, which makes it difficult to gauge whether what is being proposed regarding reporting is appropriate.</p>

Q.7 Do you have any comments on the proposed areas where reporting will be added to reflect changes to the fund?

TEU Response
<p>TEU supports the proposal to report on changes to the PBRF.</p>

Q.8 Do you have any comments on other opportunities to enhance reporting on the results of Quality Evaluation 2026?

TEU Response
<p>TEU supports the SRG's recommendation to refrain from pursuing the opportunities for reporting set out by the TEC.</p>

Q.9 Do you have any other comments related to reporting the results of Quality Evaluation 2026?

TEU Response

TEU members have long denounced that the PBRF as a model is built on systemic biases that has, since its inception,

Although some members acknowledge that the PBRF has provided partial benefits in some areas whilst succeeding in both improving research performance and elevating the profile of research in our tertiary education institutions, the above factors continue to undermine the work of staff throughout the tertiary education sector and, as such, produce effects which are detrimental to the quality of research-led teaching across Aotearoa New Zealand. The same factors also illustrate the fundamental inadequacies of a model which endeavours to assign research funding to institutions by using the individual as the unit of assessment.

In other words, the PBRF is fundamentally flawed in ways which reflect and perpetuate the biases and inequities present throughout academia and wider society.

Although the Guiding Principles agreed by Cabinet of partnership, equity, and inclusiveness are supported by TEU members, the flawed foundations of PBRF mean that even with these proposed changes the principles are unlikely to be realised. We endorse collaboration rather than competition where there is support for and value given to all levels of research endeavours. Other than for auditing purposes, individual data should be withheld. Reporting should be at the discipline and institution level with an explicit incentive of supporting growing research culture and collaboration within institutes.

Following this, TEU does not support the PBRF. Therefore, our response to Consultation Paper 11 should be considered within the context of the commentary provided as a response to Q.9.