



RQF Trials and the Newcastle Experience

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Outline...

- **ATN-Murdoch RQF Trial – 2005-6**
- **Key areas of concern**
- **The University of Newcastle approach**
- **In 2007 – details of planning to date**
- **Questions?**



The ATN-Murdoch RQF Trial 2005-6

- **Based on self-selected research groupings across 6 universities**
- **Over 70 research groupings submitted portfolios involving a significant group of researchers – each institution took a different approach to the exercise based on internal reviews and the needs of the institution**
- **Guidelines informed by similar exercises undertaken by the CSIRO & ANSTO**
- **Incorporated context statements, quality profiles for individual researchers and impact case studies**
- **Panels of experts and end users reviewed and rated each portfolio on a 5 point Quality and 5 point Impact scale**
- **Detailed analysis of the outcomes at an institutional level focused on the robustness of the process, the areas of concern and how to use the results to assist in the real RQF**
- **Informed DEST and the EAG & DAG processes**
- **International moderation**



Key areas of concern

- **Assessment of Impact – verification and auditability of the claims**
- **Esteem factors**
- **The role of end users in quality assessment and the consideration of impact**
- **Self assessment of its correlation of with panel assessment and international moderation**
- **Indicators for research quality and impact – Citation data and Impact Statements?**
- **Criticality of accurate data at an appropriate level**
- **Importance of the research environment and strategic planning for the future**
- **Conjoint, adjunct and emeritus staff – contributions and eligibility issues**



The University of Newcastle approach

- **Establishment of Priority Research Centres in early 2006 – involving over 30 submissions and 300 research staff**
- **Research Groupings submitted portfolios very similar to the ATN-Murdoch RQF trial – enhanced Impact case studies involving greater guidance on verifying the connection between output and impact**
- **Involvement of the Library in publications collection and repositories – RUBRIC project and ASHER**
- **Impact trial in Education and Arts in 2006**
- **Visit to selected UK universities, HEFCE and 1994 Group of Universities in December 2006 to discuss 2008 RAE**



The University of Newcastle approach continued...

- **Development of the RQF Portfolio Manager – IT system rolled out in early 2007 designed to link to existing databases of research information (grants, publications and students) and to produce RQF portfolios with very flexible reporting**
- **New system includes esteem factors, expertise information, identification of best research output (with justification and contribution), impact statements and case studies (at group level and with individual contributions)**
- **Impact functionality to be rolled out in April 2007**
- **Incentive scheme in 2007 – Publication Performance Grant Scheme: Providing resources based on publications contributed through the new IT system at threshold levels and allocated to designated groupings. Provides discretionary research support in 2007**



In 2007...

- **RQF Support Team established: RQF Manager and up to 6 support staff with several based in Faculties. Support in February/March to ensure quality/accuracy of data in IT system**
- **Leadership Forum – Discussions with faculty PVCs and Heads of School regarding the implementation strategy and managing for performance**
- **RQF Discipline Workshops – Staff participating and feedback**
- **RQF Implementation Committee: Chaired by DVC (R) and involving all Assistant Deans (Research) from Faculties, staff from Research Services and RQF Manager**
- **Panel Advisors - To support decision making regarding groupings and staff to be included**
- **Application for support through the Implementation Assistance Scheme**



In 2007 continued...

- **Trialing with other universities in June/July on aspects of quality portfolios to obtain external and international benchmarking (assisting in group identification and scope)**
- **Extensive modeling including detailed review of draft portfolios**
- **Review of draft portfolios with other universities in October/November focused on impact statements and case studies – providing feedback and advice ahead of finalisation of portfolios in early 2008**

The University of Newcastle is also undertaking its round 2 AUQA audit in March 2008!



Questions?

Thank you

