



Australian Government
**Department of Education,
Science and Training**

Research Quality Framework

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**The RQF Explained: Information Management and
Repository Needs for the RQF**

15 February 2007



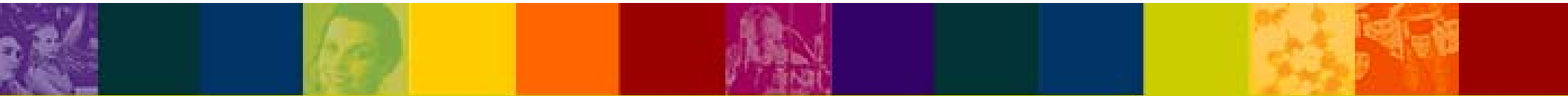
The *Recommended RQF*:

**Assessing the quality and
impact of research in
Australia
(October 2006)**



RQF Timeline - 2007

- **First quarter** – Announcement of RQF Implementation,
 - Sector advised of requirements for institutional repositories (following sector consultation),
 - DEST advertises for members of Assessment Panels,
 - Discipline workshops held in February and March to develop panel-specific sections of Guidelines.
- **31 March 2007** – RQF Staff Census Date.



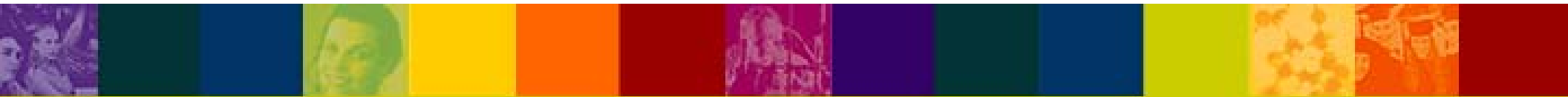
RQF Timeline - 2007

- **Second quarter** – Limited pre-implementation trials.
 - Draft RQF Specifications released to RQF contact officers.
- **July** – Release of RQF Specifications.
- **Third quarter** – Commencement of RQF Communication Strategy.
- **Fourth quarter** – Universities requested to provide Expressions of Intention to Submit Research Groups.
 - DEST and Chairs of Panels consider workloads, multi-disciplinary issues and a specialist database.



Implementation Funding to support Universities

- The Minister announced \$87.3 million will be provided to institutions for the implementation associated with the RQF.
- Around \$41 million will be provided to universities through two new programmes. This programme funding includes:
 - \$16.4 million for the RQF Implementation Assistance Programme (IAP); and
 - \$25.5 million for the Australian Scheme for Higher Education Repositories programme (ASHER).

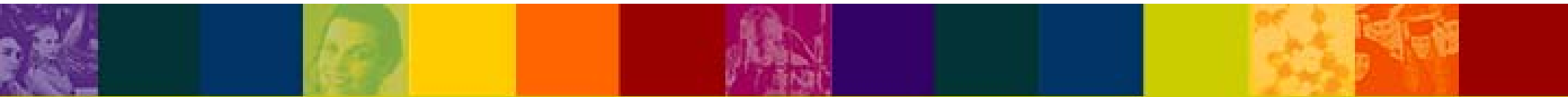


Australian Scheme for Higher Education Repositories (ASHER)

- Establishment of institutional repositories.
- ASHER will provide support for:
 - purchase of hardware and software to establish a repository, or
 - institutions to update their existing repository.

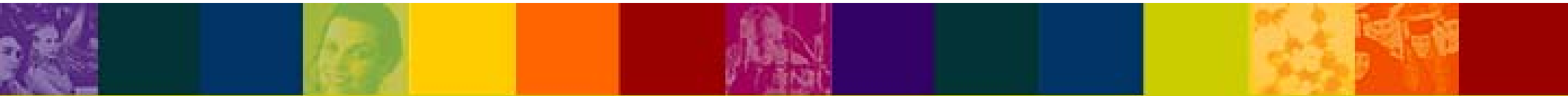
And:

- support to meet the workload involved with populating the institution's repository.
- Programme will also assist with delivery of the Accessibility Framework.



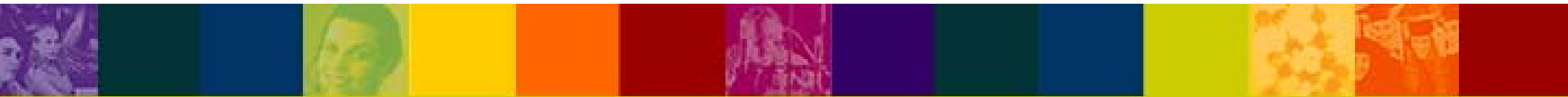
Information Management System (IMS)

- RQF IMS will:
 - interoperate with institutional repositories
 - receive institutional submission and evidence portfolios
 - will support the RQF assessment process.
- DEST will comply with the *Copyright Act 1968*.
- DEST is examining the most cost-effective solution for DEST and the sector, to comply with the Act.
- DEST considers that a paper-based solution would have created the same issues and at potentially greater expense.



Copyright Issues

- Some universities have already negotiated with publishers.
- DEST and CAUL will develop a sector-wide approach to negotiating with publishers.
- DEST will provide assistance to the sector on their management of copyright issues to do with the RQF.



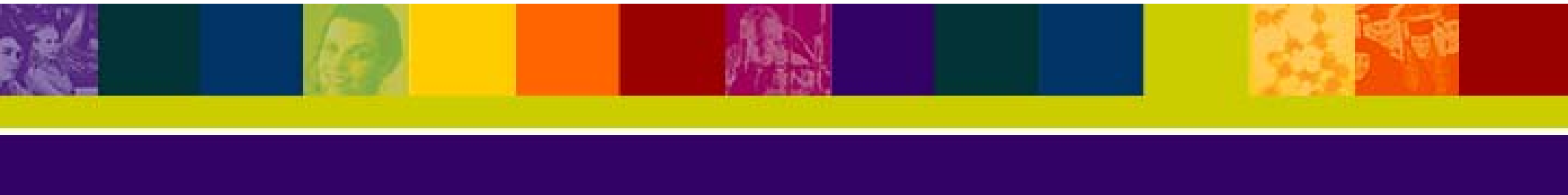
Just a Few Known Issues

- Is DEST going to prescribe submission of the publisher version?
- Is DEST going to allow linking from the repository to the publisher's website for the full text version?
- When will DEST release the business/policy and technical specifications?
- What about books?
- What kinds of research outputs are acceptable for assessment?
- How will 'year of publication' rules be applied?
- Is DEST going to collate or provide citation data centrally?
- When is DEST going to answer these questions?
- How will DEST answer other questions during submission and assessment?



Next Steps 2007/2008

- Implementation Trials.
- RQF Specifications developed and released.
- Assembly of Evidence Portfolios.
- RQF assessment process Jul-Aug 2008.





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