



## 2013 Performance-based Research Fund Performance

The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) manages the Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) which has the primary goal of encouraging and rewarding excellent research in New Zealand's tertiary education sector.

This involves assessing the quality of research carried out by New Zealand-based degree-granting tertiary education organisations (TEOs) and their wholly-owned subsidiaries, and funding them on the basis of their research performance.

In 2013, the PBRF increased to \$262.5 million from \$250.0 million in 2012. This funding was allocated to:

- › all 8 universities
- › 10 institutes of technology and polytechnics (ITPs)
- › 8 private training establishments (PTEs)
- › 1 wānanga.

Allocations were based on three components:

- › the 2012 Quality Evaluation (QE)
- › Research Degree Completions (RDCs) across 2009 to 2011
- › External Research Income (ERI) across 2009 to 2011.

These components accounted for 60%, 25%, and 15% of total funding respectively.

### **Māori and Pasifika students**

Research Degree Completions (RDCs) by Māori and Pasifika students attract a double equity weighting to encourage TEOs to enrol and support Māori and Pasifika students. Between 2009 and 2011, RDCs by Māori grew steadily from 163 to 196, while Pasifika RDCs increased from 87 to 109. The 2011 totals for these two groups represented 5.23 percent and 2.80 percent of all RDCs respectively.

### **More information**

More information on the PBRF allocation measures can be found in the Performance-Based Research Fund user manual. (PDF, 400 Kb)

Or, you can download the 2013 PBRF Performance Tables (Excel, 116 Kb) for detailed allocations and completions information.

### **2012 Quality Evaluation Canterbury earthquake provision**

After the devastating earthquakes in Canterbury in 2010 and 2011, the TEC, in consultation with the TEO sector and other stakeholders, made changes to the 2012 Quality Evaluation process.

These changes recognised the impacts of the earthquakes on researchers, including a separate Canterbury earthquakes special circumstances option.

Analysis of the results of the 2012 Quality Evaluation indicates the provision for the Canterbury earthquakes special circumstances had the desired effect of ensuring affected researchers could participate in the assessment on an equitable basis with those unaffected by the earthquakes.

The results of the 2012 Quality Evaluation can be found in the 2012 Quality Evaluation final report.

## Universities

The university sector received \$255.1 million in PBRF funding for 2013, equating to 97% of total PBRF funding (a similar proportion to 2012) and an increase of \$12.2 million (largely due to the increase in available funding in 2013).

The largest number of university RDCs in the 2009 to 2011 funding period was in Mixed Field Programmes (926 in 2011), followed by Natural and Physical Sciences (671 in 2011), with growth in these areas of 24% and 11% respectively on 2009.

Between 2009 and 2011 there were also significant increases in RDCs in:

- › Architecture and Building (up 116 RDCs or 159%)
- › Society and Culture (up 97 RDCs or 17%)
- › Education (up 79 RDCs or 123%).

## Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics

The ITP sector received \$6.6 million in PBRF funding for 2013, an increase of \$384,354 on the previous year, but a similar proportion of the total appropriation to 2012 (about 2.5%). The largest increase was in RDC funding of \$224,321 which was due in part to growth in RDCs over 2009 to 2011, particularly in the areas of Creative Arts (up 32 RDCs or 64%) and Health (up 16 RDCs or 178%).

## Wānanga and Private Training Establishments

Only one wānanga received PBRF funding (\$328,878) in 2013, compared with two in 2012 (which had together received \$536,626). This wānanga decreased its QE and RDC allocations but increased its ERI allocation. In 2011 all three RDCs were delivered in the area of Society and Culture.

While PTEs received a relatively small increase in dollar terms in 2013 (\$84,299), this equated to a 20% increase in funding from 2012. This represents increases in QE funding (\$158,818) as well as in the ERI allocation (\$10,553), partially offset by a drop in RDC funding over the same period.

## Future focus for the Performance-Based Research Fund

The PBRF grew to \$275.0 million for 2014 and \$278.5 million for 2015, with \$300 million due to be allocated for 2016.

From 2016, there will also be a **change in the proportion of funding allocated**, with QE, ERI, and RDC ratios changing to 55, 25, and 20% respectively. This is a result of the 2012/2013 Ministry of Education-led review of the PBRF which was designed to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the fund. More information on the review is available on the Ministry of Education's website.

In addition, from 2015 the RDC calculation includes increased weightings for theses written entirely in **Te Reo Māori**. The purpose is:

- › to support language maintenance
- › to recognise that Te Reo Māori is the only language appropriate for presenting research on some parts of kaupapa Māori
- › to recognise that New Zealand is the only country in the world in which research at the tertiary level might be expected to be produced in Te Reo Māori.



We ensure New Zealand's future success.