



Tertiary Education Commission  
Te Amorangi Mātauranga Matua

# **Performance-Based Research Fund**

Māori Knowledge and Development  
panel-specific guidelines 2012 Quality  
Evaluation

## Introduction

The Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) 2012 Panels have developed guidelines to assist staff members with the processes of developing and submitting Evidence Portfolios (EPs). These guidelines provide advice on specific areas that relate to the subject areas of Māori Knowledge and Development and do not replace or supersede the requirements for EPs that are set out in the *PBRF Quality Evaluation Guidelines 2012*.

The Māori Knowledge and Development panel-specific guidelines must be read in conjunction with the *PBRF Quality Evaluation Guidelines 2012*. In areas where the panel-specific guidelines do not provide additional information, this is because the advice provided in the *PBRF Quality Evaluation Guidelines 2012* applies.

The panel will be primarily interested in assessing the quality of the NROs and the staff member's contribution to them, and can also take into account the quality of the outlets through which the research has been published.

Please note that peer review panels assess EPs without reference to Quality Categories gained by staff members from their participation in the 2003 and/or 2006 Quality Evaluations.

# Māori Knowledge and Development panel-specific guidelines

## Description of panel coverage

The Māori Knowledge and Development Panel will cover a wide range of research areas. The guiding principle for coverage is that the panel will consider all EPs where there is evidence of research based on Māori world-views (both traditional and contemporary) and Māori methods of research. While other methodologies may also be used in the research, the inclusion of Māori methodologies will be the important criterion. Consequently, there is potential for the panel to consider research across all subject areas.

However, in practice it is likely that the broad theme areas covered by the panel will be: Te Reo Māori, Tikanga Māori, wairuatanga, cultural development, social development, economic development, political development, hauora, and environmental sustainability.

It is expected that all or most of the Nominated Research Outputs (NROs) will primarily investigate issues of importance to Māori, with Māori-specific measures and processes. The EP is likely to show significant involvement with Māori, and outcomes that are relevant to and significant for Māori.

EPs that include some Māori component (e.g. in their subject area), but which do not involve Māori methodologies, will not be assessed by the panel. They will be assessed by the panel that best covers the subject area of the staff member's EP.

The Māori Knowledge and Development Panel will refer EPs to other relevant panels and/or seek input from specialist advisors where it is appropriate to supplement the range of expertise of panel members.

The Māori Knowledge and Development Panel acknowledges that EPs, in addition to demonstrating a Māori methodological approach, may include research based on other approaches and across other disciplines, and will ensure equitable treatment of multi-disciplinary research.

Where an EP is written in Te Reo Māori, it should be assessed according to the research method employed, rather than the language used. Māori members in other panels or Māori specialist advisors will be able to advise further.

EPs compiled by Māori and non-Māori will be assessed by the panel, the guiding principle for assignment to the panel being that the EP primarily consists of research based on a Māori world-view and methods.

## **Cross-Referrals**

The Māori Knowledge and Development Panel expect to cross-refer to most if not all peer review panels.

The membership of peer review panels is designed to enable panels to assess the quality of research in most areas, including those which have a professional or applied outcome. It is recognised, however, that a small number of staff members will have research outputs that require expert advice from outside the scope of the panel membership and/or that may need to be considered by one of the two Expert Advisory Groups.

## **Expectations for standard of evidence to be supplied**

The wide range of research outputs covered by the panel is recognised. They will be considered on their merits, and as part of that process, staff members are asked to ensure that they have demonstrated the measures used to assess the quality of each NRO and how quality assurance has been undertaken.

The Māori Knowledge and Development Panel will use the criteria below for assessing all types of research output. The scope of these criteria may overlap. The list does not imply any particular rank order, although overall research quality will be the critical factor.

The Māori Knowledge and Development Panel will consider the extent to which the researcher's output:

- Reflects Māori world-views
- Represents an intellectual and/or creative advance or a significant contribution to knowledge
- Exhibits intellectual rigour, methodological coherence and originality in the approach taken
- Has significance for the wider community, e.g. through influencing the direction of Māori knowledge and development
- Is recognised by peers as being of high quality
- Is recognised as an important contribution to Māori knowledge in the context of indigenous knowledge and research by indigenous peoples.

Academic staff completing EPs may wish to indicate in some way the relative ranking a journal may have.

## **Elaboration of the definition of Research**

The Māori Knowledge and Development Panel will have particular regard to Māori research, and generally characterises that research as follows:

- Māori research is a broad descriptor that includes various Māori approaches to research such as kaupapa Māori research, Māori-centred research, or matauranga Māori research
- Research is based on Māori world-views (Māori ways of being, knowing and doing)
- Primary data includes material derived from Te Ao

## Māori

- Research practices and processes are consistent with Māori ethical standards
- Methods, analysis and measurements recognise Māori philosophy and experience
- The potential outcomes of research contribute to Māori knowledge and development.

## Types of research output

Given the diverse nature of the subject areas covered, the Māori Knowledge and Development Panel expects to receive a broad range of research outputs. Full consideration will be given to the wide range of types of research output noted in the generic guidelines. In particular, the panel will be prepared to assess the following types of research output that may especially contribute to Māori knowledge and development, provided they are research-based:

- Presentations at hui or wananga
- Oral presentations including whaikorero and waiata
- Performance such as haka and waiata-a-ringa
- Reports for external bodies, including submissions to the Māori Land Court, the Waitangi Tribunal, or research for iwi runanga
- New artefacts including material cultural creations such as whakairo, raranga, whare
- Other types of research output, e.g. new kai products and processes.

If any research output is delivered in a specific Māori context (such as an art work, whakairo or whaikorero), and is requested by the panel, it may be provided in an alternative form, such as a photograph, audio recording, audio visual format, transcription, commentary, or attestations from kaumātua or peers.

TEOs should note that all research outputs included in EPs must be consistent with the PBRF Definition of Research, as set out in the general Guidelines, and must be accompanied by evidence as to quality.

## Additional advice from expert advisory groups

EPs can be referred to an Expert Advisory Group (EAG) by either a TEO or by the Chair of a peer review panel.

Where an EP has been referred to an EAG and has **at least one** NRO that meets the criteria set out by that EAG, additional advice can be sought. A score and opinion on the EP will be provided back to the peer review panel the EP is assigned to.

The criteria that will determine whether or not the Pacific Research and the Professional and Applied Research EAGs will accept EPs for consideration will be published on the TEC website.

**Indications of the minimum quantity of research output expected to be produced during the assessment period**

The Māori Knowledge and Development Panel accepts that there may be some delay in the publication of certain kinds of research. There may also be circumstances where research outputs may be initially disseminated through non-quality assured media. These factors will be given due consideration in evaluating the evidence presented. However, the panel will be primarily interested in demonstrable research outputs. The panel considers that where fieldwork or investigation is undertaken over an extended period, that evidence of research outputs such as conference papers or articles may be expected.

The panel expects that the staff member's EP would contain at least one substantial research output and three other research outputs for the six-year assessment period.

**Special Circumstances**

Special circumstances that the Māori Knowledge and Development Panel may deem relevant, taking into consideration the evidence presented, include these:

- In a particular area of Māori knowledge and development, where the mass of researchers is insufficient to sustain a research culture.
- Specific responsibilities beyond the TEO to iwi and Māori.
- If a staff member has a significant proportion of research outputs that are confidential, and this affects the quantity of research output, this should be explained. Nevertheless, the onus remains on the staff member to provide an EP that can be assessed, including any confidential nominated research outputs.

If a staff member has a significant proportion of research outputs that are confidential, and this affects the quantity of research output, this should be explained. Nevertheless, the onus remains on the staff member to provide an EP that can be assessed, including any confidential nominated research outputs.

**Treatment of non-standard, non-quality-assured and jointly produced research outputs**

The general Guidelines apply, see the topics: Quality-Assured and Non-Quality-Assured Research Outputs and Outputs involving Joint Research in Chapter 2 Section C: Guidelines for Completing the Research Output Component.

Where there are multiple authors, staff members must ensure that their contribution to the research output is clearly defined in the "My Contribution" section. In cases where co-authors include the same NRO in their EPs, staff members are encouraged to confer about the details of their contributions, to ensure that there is no conflict in the information provided.

**Proportions of Nominated Research Outputs (NROs) to be examined<sup>1</sup>**

It is intended that the Māori Knowledge and Development Panel will examine 100% of NROs in the EPs submitted to it.

**Use of specialist advisers**

The Māori Knowledge and Development Panel recognises that the broad range of subjects covered may require input from a range of specialist advisers.

The general Guidelines apply, see the topic: Using a Specialist Adviser in Chapter 3 Section B: Allocating EPs to Panel Members and Obtaining Additional Input.

**Elaboration of the descriptor and tie-points for the Research Output (RO) component**

**The RO component descriptor**

The Māori Knowledge and Development Panel will consider all EPs that primarily consist of research based on Māori centred world-views and methods. Consequently, the panel will potentially consider research across all subject areas. It is expected that all or most of the NROs primarily investigate issues of importance to Māori, with Māori specific measures and processes. The EP is likely to show significant involvement with Māori, and outcomes that are relevant to and significant for, Māori.

With regard to the presentation of research outputs through various channels, in the Māori community there are a wide range of channels of presentation, e.g. through marae and runanga hui, some of which offer a higher level of scrutiny, peer review or informed critique than others. The panel will take into consideration the channel through which a research output is presented as one measure of quality.

*Tie Point 6*

The Māori Knowledge and Development Panel recognises that 'world class' denotes a standard, not a type or focus of research. Research outputs based on Māori-centred research methodologies may rank with the best research of its type in the field conducted anywhere and thus be considered to demonstrate performance at this level. Other indigenous research will also provide an opportunity for benchmarking at a world-wide level.

The significant and substantial contribution of research outputs to Māori knowledge and development will be important in demonstrating performance at this level.

*Tie Point 4*

The general Guidelines apply (see Chapter 3, Section

---

<sup>1</sup> "Examined" is defined as either reading an NRO in full, substantially or sufficiently to make an informed assessment, or (for NROs which by their nature cannot be read) an equivalent level of scrutiny.

C: Scoring an EP: Allocating Points for Research Outputs).

*Tie Point 2*

The general Guidelines apply (see Chapter 3, Section C: Scoring an EP: Allocating Points for Research Outputs).

**Elaboration of the descriptor and tie-points for the Peer Esteem (PE) component**

**The PE component descriptor**

The Māori Knowledge and Development Panel acknowledges that a wide range of PE factors may indicate that the research is regarded as an important contribution to Māori knowledge and development.

In addition to the examples of PE provided in the general Guidelines, the panel will consider other examples related to Te Ao Māori, including:

- Invitation to address a hui where there is wide Māori participation for a research-related purpose. An explanation of the purpose must be provided.
- Mandated representation on behalf of Māori and/or iwi at a research-related event (e.g. marae, Waitangi tribunal, hui-a-iwi).

*Tie Point 6*

World class recognition of research outputs based on Māori centred research methodologies could include, for example, presentation at world indigenous research conferences and fora, or having a position at an indigenous research institution overseas.

*Tie Point 4*

The general Guidelines apply (see Chapter 3, Section C: Scoring an EP: Allocating Points for Peer Esteem).

*Tie Point 2*

The general Guidelines apply (see Chapter 3, Section C: Scoring an EP: Allocating Points for Peer Esteem).

**Elaboration of the descriptor and tie-points for the Contribution to the Research Environment (CRE) component**

**The CRE component descriptor**

The Māori Knowledge and Development Panel acknowledges that a wide range of CRE factors are relevant to the subject areas covered by the panel.

In addition to the examples of CRE environment provided in the general Guidelines, the panel will consider other examples related to Te Ao Māori, including the following:

- Development and maintenance of strong and effective links with end users of research, including the transfer of knowledge to participants and/or stakeholders in research, such as whanau, hapu, iwi and Māori communities
- Contribution to the further development of



research capacity in the broad areas of Māori knowledge and development researchers (Maori and non-Maori), through supervision, assessment peer review and mentoring

- Promotion of a research culture within iwi, hapu and Māori communities through guidance, leadership and facilitation
- Engagement with at the interface between Māori centred research approaches and other approaches to research
- The use of Māori centred research approaches to inform other disciplines and subject areas.

*Tie Point 6*

Extensive networks and/or collaborations may include those with overseas indigenous researchers and research institutions. Research and disciplinary leadership may include contributions to Māori knowledge and the knowledge of other indigenous peoples both in New Zealand and beyond.

*Tie Point 4*

The general Guidelines apply (see Chapter 3, Section C: Scoring an EP: Allocating Points for Contribution to the Research Environment).

*Tie Point 2*

The general Guidelines apply (see Chapter 3, Section C: Scoring an EP: Allocating Points for Contribution to the Research Environment).