Overview of changes to the *Guidelines for TEOs participating in the Quality Evaluation 2026*

This document provides a high-level overview of changes in the consultation draft of *Guidelines for TEOs participating in the Quality Evaluation 2026* (TEO Guidelines). Its purpose is to assist stakeholders in reading and providing feedback on the consultation draft. It should be read in conjunction with the Summary of TEC In-Principle decisions.

› You can access the consultation draft of the TEO guidelines on the TEC website.
› The following table highlights where the TEO guidelines have changed compared to the 2018 TEO Guidelines. Changes are based on the sector feedback process led by the Sector Reference Group.
› Consultation on the draft TEO Guidelines is open from 11 August to 22 September. Final Guidelines will be published in November 2023.

Overview of changes to the TEO Guidelines

Section	Pages	Level of change
How to use these guidelines	8-9	Minor changes only.
An overview	10-14	Minor changes only, such as updates to the timeline.
What is research?	15-20	Major changes to the definitions of research, excellence, and impact and to Quality Category descriptors.
Who is eligible to participate?	21-32	Minor changes to research substantiveness test wording. New and Emerging researcher eligibility content moved to new chapter on EP submission options.
Achievement relative to opportunity	33-37	This completely new chapter introduces the new Achievement Relative to Opportunity framework, which applies to New and Emerging

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		researchers, Part-Time researchers, and Researcher Circumstances provisions.
EP submission options	38-51	This completely new chapter explains how the new Achievement Relative to Opportunity framework affects EP submission options for New and Emerging and Part-Time researchers, and staff who declare Researcher Circumstances.
Understanding Evidence Portfolios	52-62	Major changes to the design of EPs. Minor changes to: • the number and coverage of some panels • the way cross-referrals are initiated • the scope of the Platform of Research – Contextual Summary field. It also contains new proposals to: • use ANZSRC codes to populate the Field of Research • introduce a new EP Language field.
Completing the ERE and CRE components	63-81	Major changes to the design of an EP, focusing on the ERE component and the CRE component. This includes the introduction of new EP items such as ERE Outputs, Supplementary Items, Research Activity types, and CRE types.
Providing ERE Outputs	82-91	Minor changes only. This new chapter is largely similar to previous guidance on providing nominated research outputs (NROs).
Conflicts of interest	92-94	Minor changes only to reflect the introduction of Co-Moderators and Co-Chairs.
What happens in the audit process?	95-111	Minor changes only, to reflect new EP design and the Achievement Relative to Opportunity framework. Minor change to information on forms of evidence for audit, which has also been moved to this chapter.
How will the results be reported?	112-124	Major changes related to the removal of all content regarding the calculation and reporting of the AQS. Otherwise, minor changes to reflect new EP design and the ARO framework.

Section	Pages	Level of change
How to make a complaint about errors	125-127	Minor changes only.
Glossary	128-132	Minor changes only. This has been updated to reflect changes to EP design, the ARO framework, and other relevant changes.
TEO audit declaration	133-134	Minor changes only. Changes highlight the importance of validating eligible declarations under the Achievement Relative to Opportunity framework and the importance of appropriate processes for collecting staff ethnicity data.
Appendix: Eligible EP item types	135-155	The majority of this information is unchanged from 2018. Major changes include: • the new 'Processes and products' research output type • the introduction of Research Activity types (p. 146-149) • the introduction of CRE types (p. 150-154) • and changes the proposed new description of 'Software'. There are also minor edits to the wording of the other types, reflecting earlier consultation.

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