Allocations for the 2017 Performance-Based Research Fund

In 2017, the Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) allocated $300 million, the same as 2016.

The Tertiary Education Commission (the TEC) allocated:

› $291.7 million to 8 universities (97.2%)
› $7.25 million to 10 ITPs (2.4%)
› $555,056 to 8 PTEs (<1%)
› $508,809 to 1 wānanga (<1%)

From 2016 to 2017 the amount of funding received decreased marginally for universities and PTEs (both less than 0.5%), significantly for wānanga ($155,211, 23.4%) and increased for ITPs ($300,418, 4.3%).

Quality Evaluation (QE) allocations; all sectors receive same funding as 2016

The Quality Evaluation component of the PBRF comes from an assessment of the research performance of staff at eligible TEOs. 2017 funding allocations for the QE measure were based on the results of the 2012 QE.

In 2017, the TEC allocated $165 million in QE funding, the same amount as in 2016, and each sector received the same amount of funding as in 2016. The Universities received $159.5 million, ITPs $4.9 million, wānanga $145,070 and PTEs $375,904.

External Research Income (ERI) funding was similar to 2016...

The external research income element of the PBRF is an annual measurement of the amount and type of income received by participating TEOs from external sources for research.

In 2017, the TEC allocated $60 million in ERI funding. Universities received $59.6 million, ITPs $345,917, wānanga $19,174 and PTEs $57,894.

The total amount of external research income earned by all sectors in 2017 increased by 7.9% from 2016. From 2013 ERI earned across all sectors has increased year on year from $396 million to $515 million in 2017.

...with external research income earned increasing for both the wānanga and university sector’s

External research income earned by the wānanga sector remained stable over the period 2015 ($194,595) and 2016 ($185,647), and increased considerably in 2017 ($494,110).
The University sector increased its external research income earned by $104 million (26%) for the period 2014 to 2017 ($394.1 million to $511.9 million respectively). Between 2016 and 2017, ERI earned by this sector increased by $37 million.

...and actual external research income earned remains steady for the ITP sector

The ITP sector has maintained its level of ERI earnings between $1.9 million and $2.3 million over the period 2014-2017. Between 2016 ($2.187 million) and 2017 ($2.333 million), ERI earned by this sector increased by $146,074 (6.7%).

Research Degree Completion allocations increased for ITPs...

The Research Degree Completions element of the PBRF is a yearly measurement of the number of PBRF-eligible postgraduate research-based degrees completed at participating TEOs. In 2017, the TEC allocated $75 million in RDC funding. Universities received $72.57 million, ITPs $1.97 million, wānanga $344,565 and PTEs $121,257.

2017 RDC funding increased by $318,327 for ITPs, universities had a minimal decrease of $276,773, and wānanga and PTEs funding decreased by $46,878 and $31,280 respectively compared to 2016.

...and the total number of RDCs continued to trend upwards

RDCs have continued to increase for the period 2014 (3975) to 2017 (4117).

Between 2016 and 2017 RDCs for Pacific and Asian people increased by 12 (8.5%) and 70 (6.8%) respectively and for European and Maori peoples declined by 90 (-3.6%) and 33 (-12.1%) respectively. RDCs by Middle Eastern/Latin American/African (MELAA) people increased from 2016 (192) to 2017 (271).

In 2017, Society and Culture (835) and Natural and Physical Sciences (887) continued to produce the highest numbers of RDCs, followed by Health (539) and Creative Arts (495).

Further information

More information on the PBRF can be found here.

Other publications relevant to the PBRF, including previous allocations and annual reports, can be found here.

Detailed allocations and completions information is available in the 2017 PBRF Allocation Tables (Excel, 160 Kb)