



Australian Government

Department of Education, Science and Training

Research Quality Framework

RESPONSE TO *The Research Quality Framework Draft Panel-Specific Requirements*

August 2007

RESEARCH QUALITY FRAMEWORK: Draft Panel-Specific Requirements

How to Make a Submission

This document contains notes to assist organisations prepare a submission, as well as the conditions for making a submission. Additionally it contains a submissions pro-forma that should be used for making a submission to the consultation process on the Draft RQF Panel-Specific Requirements.

How do I make a submission?

1. Submissions

Submissions can be emailed to rjf@dest.gov.au.

Only one submission can be made by each invited organisation.

2. Hard-copy submissions

Please provide your responses to the questions in the relevant spaces on the pro-forma.

If you choose not to answer some questions, please do not delete the questions, just leave them blank or enter 'Nil Response'.

If you have any comments on areas not addressed in this pro-forma please enter them in the space provided at the end of your submission.

Will my submission be published?

A report analysing the submissions may be prepared by the Department and/or external consultants in which case submissions or parts of submissions may be included in the report. Organisations may request not to have their details made public. In such cases, the submissions (or parts of submissions) will be referred to by the name of the organisation only.

You should be aware that the Department may be required to release the details of any submission (or parts of it) by the operation of law (for example, if required to do so by Parliament). The Department can therefore give no undertakings that your submission (or parts of it) will never be made publicly available. If you have any concerns about this, the Department suggests that you obtain your own legal advice.

Other conditions of making a submission

The Department will neither consider nor publish any submission that, in the Department's opinion, contains material that is or may be defamatory, insulting or otherwise inappropriate.

The Department may include a statement to the effect that the Department does not necessarily agree with the submission (or part of the submission) and the views expressed in it are those of the author. A statement of this type may accompany any submission or part thereof that the Department makes publicly available or includes in any report.

The Department will not treat any information in any submission as confidential to any person.

Other conditions of making a submission are described elsewhere in these notes and in the pro-forma for making a submission.

The Department may use, reproduce and adapt any submission in whole or in part for any purpose described in these notes or the pro-forma (the "**Department's Rights**"). Each individual and organisation making a submission must ensure that the Department's Rights are not in conflict with (or that all relevant consents have been obtained in relation to) any right of any person, including copyright, moral rights (as defined in the Copyright Act 1968) and any right to control the use or disclosure of information.

Where do I send my response?

Email submissions can be sent to rqf@dest.gov.au.

If you are unable to submit your response via email, postal submissions can be sent to:

The Submissions Officer
Research Quality Framework Team, Loc. 523
Innovation & Research Systems Group
Department of Education, Science and Training
GPO Box 9880
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Fax submissions can be sent to (02) 6123 7820

The closing date for all submissions is **23 August 2007**.

If you have any questions regarding the pro-forma or any other aspect of making a submission, please contact the Research Quality Framework Team at rqf@dest.gov.au or on (02) 6229 4238.

RESEARCH QUALITY FRAMEWORK (RQF)
Response to the Draft RQF Panel-Specific Requirements
Submission Cover Page

Organisation Name	Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia & New Zealand)				
Address	School of Nursing, Deakin University				
	221 Burwood Highway				
City	Burwood	State	VIC	Postcode	3125
Phone	(03) 9244 6111	Email	jmartin@deakin.edu.au		
Signature	(required for hard copies only)				

Does the organisation consent to having its submission identified in a report on the outcomes of this submission process to be prepared by the Department or external consultant, which could be made publicly available on the Department's website? (Y/N)	Yes
---	-----

Name of Authorising Person	Professor John Daly				
Position	Chair, CDNМ				
Phone	(02) 9685 9113	Email	j.daly@uws.edu.au		
Signature	(required for hard copies only)				

Please ensure that all details on this page are completed.

RESEARCH QUALITY FRAMEWORK (RQF)

Response to the Draft Panel-Specific Requirements

Research Groups

1. Small Research Groups

The draft *Panel-Specific Requirements* provide guidance, in addition to that provided in the draft *RQF Submission Specifications*, to Research Groups from disciplines that may have fewer than five members. Are there any other disciplines or sub-disciplines where there may be Research Groups with fewer than five members?

If yes, please list the reasons that these Research Groups may include in their short statement of reasons justifying their small group size. For each response please specify the relevant panel and/or discipline(s).

Your response

The disciplines of Nursing and Midwifery may have research groups with fewer than five members. Research in these disciplines is considered emerging and researchers eligible for assessment with the required number and quality of assessable outputs that can be supported by an acceptable Context Statement and Statement of Impact demonstrating cohesion and collaboration within a Group may be very small in some institutions. (Panel 7)

The Context Statement

2. Descriptive Component

The outcomes of the Pre-implementation Trials and consultation on the draft *RQF Submission Specifications* indicate that more guidance on the kind of information which should be included in the Descriptive Component of the Context Statement, is required.

The draft *Panel-Specific Requirements* provide further detail on information which may be included in the Context Statement.

Under one or more of the following sub-headings, please list any other information that a Research Group may include to demonstrate the quality of its research. For each response please specify the relevant panel and/or discipline(s).

Your response

a. Statement of history, strategic focus and research objectives of the Research Group.

--

b. Summary of main achievements of the Research Group.

--

c. Extent of cohesion and collaboration within the Research Group.

Given Nursing and Midwifery is considered as emerging as opposed to established research, there may not be the same degree of coherence and collaboration evident in the research groups assessed. (Panel 7)

d. Extent of collaborative research within the institution and/or with researchers at other institutions or agencies.

Given Nursing and Midwifery is considered as emerging as opposed to established research, there may not be the same degree of “formal linkage programmes, joint research programs” etc within institutions or with researchers at other agencies evident in the research groups assessed. (Panel 7)

e. Support for ECRs and HDR Students.

f. Summary of Esteem and Other factors.

g. Any difficulties overcome and still being faced.

3. Other research income that supports the Research Group

The required specified field *Other Income that Supports the Research Group* in the Context Statement has been included to capture information on income that supports the Research Group but which does not meet the definition of research income collected as part of the Higher Education Research Data Collection.

Please list any further examples of other income that may support a Research Group. For each response please specify the relevant panel and/or discipline(s).

Your response

Research Outputs

4. Date of Publication

The draft *Panel-Specific Requirements* for Panel 13 state that where the date on a publication refers to the date when the output was generated rather than published, the date of publication should be clearly specified with an explanation of variance in the ‘best’ output justification.

Are there any situations in which this sort of variance exists, and in what circumstances? For each response please specify the relevant panels/discipline(s).

List any other information relevant to the date of publication that should be included in the *Draft Panel-Specific Requirements*. For each response please specify the relevant panel and/or discipline(s).

Your response

The Impact Statement

5. Statement of Claims for Impact

Does the draft *Panel-Specific Requirements* provide appropriate examples of the types of impact claims that are likely to be made by Research Groups?

If no, please list additional examples of likely statements of claim. For each response please specify the relevant panel and/or discipline(s).

Your response

6. Linking the Impact Claimed to the Research of the Group

It may be necessary for Research Groups to reference impact-related outputs in their Impact Statement that have not been included in the body of work, in order to substantiate the link between the research and the level of benefit claimed.

Please list the types of outputs that Research Groups may refer to in their Impact Statement in order to substantiate this link. For each response please specify the relevant panel and/or discipline(s).

Your response

7. Research Groups not Submitting for Impact Assessment

Does the draft *Panel-Specific Requirements* contain sufficient guidance on what should be included in the statement of reasons for Research Groups not submitting for Impact Assessment?

If no, please provide an example of the type of guidance that may be appropriately included here. For each response please specify the relevant panel and/or discipline(s).

Your response

Other Comments

Your other comments

It is noted in the draft Panel-Specific Requirements that sector consultation on rankings has commenced. The Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery commissioned a “journal-ranking” project specifically to inform Panels of the views of the disciplines of nursing and midwifery as to what constituted first-, second- and third- tier etc journals. The CDN recommends DEST utilise this resource and that it is provided for information to all Panels but specifically where nursing and midwifery outputs may be assessed ie Panels 6, 7, 8, 9.