Research Evaluation: Quick, Cheap, Good: Pick Any Two

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CHEAP!

Things money can’t buy

Good will from assessors
Buy in (the process and outcomes)
Trust in your reputation
Personality transplants (committee collegiality)
Completely objective views – moderation
CHEAP!

1. Do your homework - what’s happening out there and how do they do it?

2. Using existing, tested, well accepted and transparent processes

3. Use existing system infrastructure (databases, experienced people, national and international benchmarks)

4. Targeted consultation

5. Documents and training at the start
How quick depends on scale – large assessment exercises versus small assessment exercises
QUICKLY!

1. Plan, plan, project plan
2. Quick for everyone involved?
3. Capitalise on established relationships and networks to help – people power
4. Defensible inputs and outputs – is there enough integrity for your overall purpose?
5. Existing system build or manual handling
6. Repeatable? Cost effective - the future
GOOD BUT FOR WHO?

Institution(s)  Researchers
Government policy  Industry and users of research
Research strategy makers  Assessors
Collaborators  The Public
Research funding agencies
GOODNESS!


2. Respected, experienced peers as assessors and committee members – careful spread of expertise assigned

3. Fair, transparent and consistent business processes

4. Engagement with who is being evaluated plus some feedback afterwards
5. Respect for the difficulty for research at the margin

6. Respect for the innovative and new

7. Equity principles – cultural sensitivities, early career researchers, career interruption

8. Capacity for benchmarking – nationally and internationally
GOODNESS!

9. Handling of confidentiality, privacy, commercial in confidence and conflict of interest

10. Good training and approachable admin support staff, and clear outcome reports

11. Think about the aftermath - behaviours arising from research evaluation processes

12. Clear review processes and capacity to audit. Is it repeatable?
Good minus Quick divided by Cheap = ?
The Denominator