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**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



# QUICK?



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)

Research  
funding  
agencies

Researchers

Government  
policy

Industry and  
users of  
research

Research  
strategy  
makers



Assessors

Collaborators

The Public



# GOODNESS!



1. Good planning and implementation – best practice models. Clear, shared vision of why? Consultation and feedback.
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



# GOODNESS!



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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

