

Quality Annual Reflection Cycle

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why the change? Hasn't the PAR just settled down from a review process a few years ago?

A: New Higher Education Threshold Standards come into effect in 2017, and require certain review cycles. Additionally, the DVC (Education) is committed to an annual review process that is simpler, and has greater consistency and clarity for stakeholders.

Q: I understand the new Quality Annual Reflection Cycle (Quality ARC) process will be piloted in 2016. When will I know if my program is part of the pilot?

A: Colleges will finalise their list of programs for the pilot by the end of May. Program Managers of all pilot programs will be notified. If you wish your program to be included in the pilot, please consult with your Head of School/Executive Dean.

Q: Will this Quality ARC pilot implementation be different, or will we do that each year and the comprehensive review every five years? I'm concerned about resourcing.

A: The aim of this transitional pilot year is to simplify and streamline processes, and identify what is of intrinsic value through a pilot. This should reduce the resourcing of the annual review. The five year comprehensive review is a compliance requirement, and will be met through central and local level resources. Resource requirements will be identified as part of the development of the new processes.

Q: When will the new comprehensive review process be introduced?

A: Work will commence on the comprehensive review process later in the year. A rolling schedule, coordinated with accreditation and other external audit requirements is being prepared, with an anticipated start date in early 2017.

Q: I'm worried. I was told my program is under scrutiny for viability, based on PAR data and process last year. How can I demonstrate the importance of the small but significant program I teach in if the process is changing?

A: Viability and future state planning decisions remain decisions for Colleges. The PAR process never made these decisions.

Q: Does this later timeline mean the data will be aligned? I have a small cohort and PAR data reflecting different cohort years assessed against the one calendar year review did not always make sense.

A: The reference to timely data reflects commitment to improve the data integrity and validity for programs and program clusters.

Q: I have queried the data in the PAR reports before. Is this taken into account?

A: The pilot transition approach is committed to delivering timely and relevant data. Deputy PVCs L&T are on the Working Group and can represent college feedback on data if not already included in the pilot development.

Q: The area I am in used the PAR to showcase good practice. This was useful for other purposes such as learning and teaching grant and award applications, marketing and promotion. Will this still be a part of the Quality ARC process or the five year comprehensive program review?

A: We have heard concerns from stakeholders about time spent on the PAR. One of the aims of the pilot transition process is to simplify review, but reflection will be built into the simplified process. Good practice showcase can be identified along with other quality assurance, but is less likely to be a focus of the streamlined process.

Q: Will my college still produce the data for me?

A: The pilot implementation is hoping to reduce the duplication or re-processing of data across colleges and central areas. Your college champions will continue to be your Quality ARC data contact through the pilot implementation and delivery of the updated dashboard.