



Independent Evaluation of the QQI Annual Quality Reporting Model

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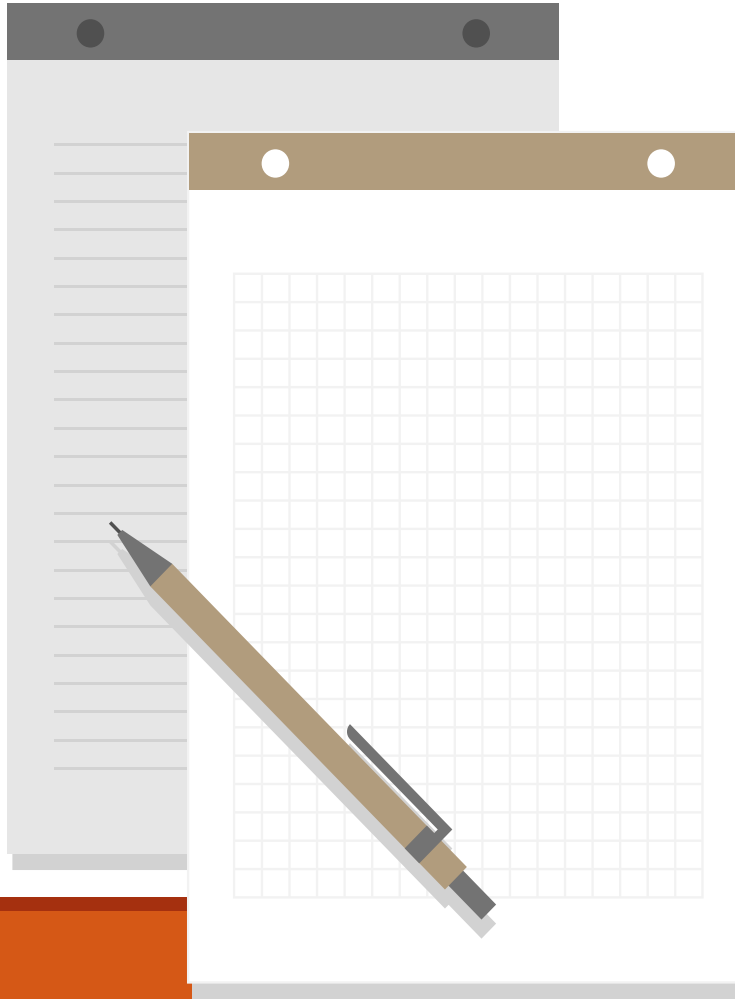


Public confidence in quality of individual
HEIs and qualifications system

What is the Annual Quality Report?



Evaluation Methodology



Surveys

Profile	Population	Response Rate
Public HEIs	20	12 (60%)
Private HEIs	24	17 (70.8%)
QQI senior staff	41	8 (19.5%)



Profile	Number
Public HEIs	2
Private HEIs	2

Focus Groups



Profile	Number
QQI	3
DFHERIS	2
HEA	2
IUA	1
THEA	1
HECA	1

Interviews



Document Type	Volume
2022 Public Sector AQRs	20
2022 Private Sector AQRs	24
2023 AQR template	1
2021 Thematic Analysis reports	2

Document Review

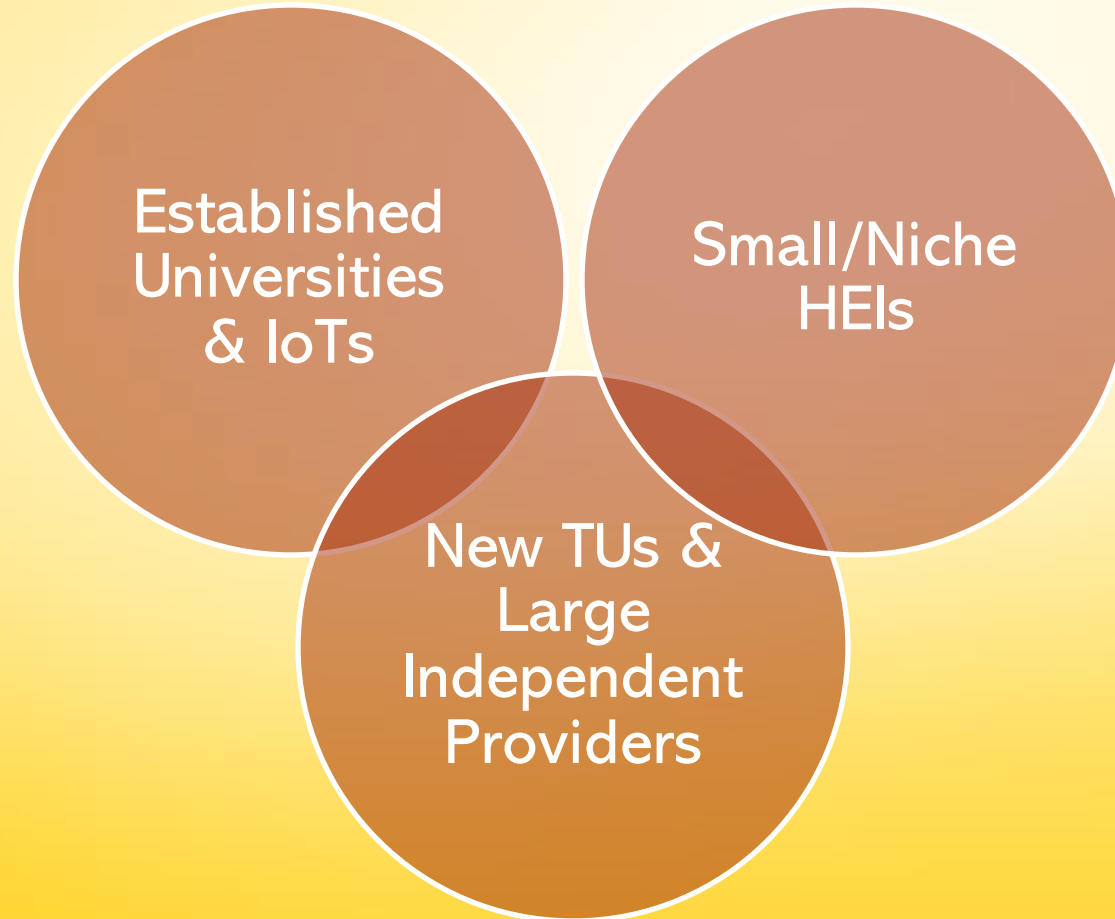
A hand holding a black pen is writing on a data table. The table has columns and rows with numbers and dots. The word "Findings" is overlaid in the center. The background is a dark green color with a grid pattern. The table contains numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and dots in various cells. The word "Findings" is written in white, serif font, centered on the page. There are two horizontal white lines, one above and one below the word. The bottom of the image has a solid orange bar.

Findings

Is the AQR fulfilling its stated purposes?

	Purposes	Largely Meets	Somewhat Meets	Does not Meet
1	Provides documentary evidence of the development and evolution of a provider's QA system.	X		
2	Provides QQI with assurance that internal QA procedures have been established and are being implemented.		X	
3	Assists providers with document management in the institutional review process.		X	
4	Forms part of the evidence base considered by external review teams.			X
5	Provides transparency on HEIs' assurance and enhancement of quality to external stakeholders.	X		

What purposes does the AQR fulfil in practice?



General Recommendations

1. Adjust timelines (move forward)
2. Consider alternative submission mechanisms
3. Provide specific guidance to limit overall length
4. Offer feedback to HEIs on areas for improvement
5. Continue quality meetings with *all* providers (highly valued)
6. Highlight published reports to key stakeholders
7. Consider promotion through in-person workshop and conference events

Recommendations

*Clarity and Coherence of
Purpose*

1. Clarify the future functions of the AQR and integration of the AQR process in the emerging wider context of reporting obligations (e.g. DFHERIS, HEA, Tertiary Office)
2. Continue discussions with the sector in the context of ongoing review and development of the monitoring model

Recommendations

*Balance between Regulatory and
Enhancement-Focused Role*

1. Align the template to the clarified purpose of the AQR
2. Align and integrate the AQR with other monitoring and review processes

Potential Enhancements

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Quantitative vs Qualitative?

Include more data and remove the waffle and self-congratulatory elements. Replace this with real tangible achievements and data that can be used as a sector
(Independent/private HEI focus group contributor)

It's hard to say what should be in there and what shouldn't. The info in Part A is important. It's important to show that the institutions are carrying out QA in HEIs – student feedback, internal reviews and accreditations, external examiners, etc. It's important to show what they're doing with the info they're getting from those quality procedures
(Public HEI focus group contributor)

I agree that the reports should be more qualitative. It would be a very constrained report with a more quantitative focus. Those metrics are already with QQI in terms of certification numbers etc. and already available on the infographics in the main
(Independent/private focus group contributor)

Potential Purposes

Does the AQR interact with, or complement, other forms of reporting or oversight of quality assurance within your institution (e.g., quality improvement plans; action plans arising from reviews etc.)?

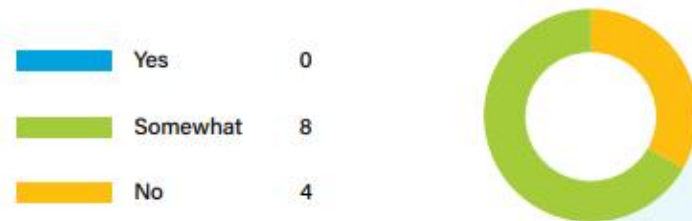


Figure 4: Public HEI AQR survey response on whether the AQR interacts with or complements other forms of reporting or oversight within institutions

Does the AQR interact with, or support, other forms of oversight of QA within HEIs in which you and/or your team are involved (e.g., programme validation, institutional review etc.)?



Figure 5: QQI staff survey response regarding the extent to which the AQR interacts with or supports other forms of oversight of HEIs

Challenges & Opportunities for HEIs

- How can HEIs make the AQR process work for them?
- How can HEIs evidence the impact of QA measures in the AQR?
- How can HEIs make their AQR report more visible and relevant to staff?

Thank you

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