FIGURE 1: THE RECOMMENDED RQF

The Minister
- Approves the RQF
- Approves RQF Guidelines
- Approves appointments to the Assessment Panels
- Approves reporting and evaluation frameworks
- Approves funding formulae
- Approves RQF outcomes and applications to funding

Development Advisory Group
- Presents advice on the Recommended RQF and the implementation process

Institutions
- Identify eligible staff based on eligibility criteria
- Nominate Research Groups and researchers put forward for inclusion
- Collect evidence for the RQF in an on-site repository that allows assessor access via the RQF Information Management System (to be developed)

Research Groups
- Defined under a common 4-digit RFCD code or mix of codes for cross-discipline groups
- Consist of allied researchers nominated for assessment

Evidence Portfolios
As per panel-specific Guidelines
- Context Statement
- 4 “best” Research Outputs per researcher
- Full list of Research Outputs (body of work)
- Statements of impact that can be verified by qualified end users of research
- Other discipline specific measures

Specialist Assessors
- Chairs of Assessment Panels will have the discretion to request additional expertise as required

RQF Evaluation and Development
- The RQF process and outcomes are to be reviewed at the end of the cycle
- Further development of the Information Management System will be undertaken as required

RQF Reference Committee
- Consists of sector, government and industry representatives
- Provides advice as required during the first cycle of the RQF, including possible funding formulae
- Provides advice on the IT requirements and development of the RQF Information Management System
- Provides advice on the development of RQF Guidelines for approval by the Minister
- Provides advice on the moderation/validation process to allow national and international benchmarking of RQF ratings
- Provides advice on the evaluation of the RQF process and outcomes

Assessment Panels
- Consist of 12 reviewers of international standing, including a minimum of three internationals and three end users
- Panel Chairs have the power to exercise appropriate discretion in the operation of Panels to best suit (cross-)disciplinary areas
- Panel Chairs will coordinate the development of panel-specific input to Guidelines
- Determine Research quality and impact scores based on the submitted evidence

RQF Moderation Panel
- Chaired by the Chair of the RQF Reference Committee
- Consists of all Chairs of Assessment Panels and nominated members from the Reference Committee
- Co-ordinates an independent RQF validation process, including the appointment of Readers and, if necessary, directing Assessment Panels to reassess Evidence Portfolios to ensure equitable treatment across disciplines
- Panel Chair submits the final quality and impact scores to the Reference Committee which reports to the Minister

Reporting
- Separate ratings for quality and impact of Research Groups (researchers will not be rated individually)
- Numbers of eligible researchers and numbers of assessed researchers by RFCD aggregations