
Protocol for Committee Data Reporting

June 2012

In an increasingly competitive higher education landscape, La Trobe senior management and Council need to receive evidence about the University's relative standing and performance and use this information to inform decision-making. *Vision 2015* notes that:

"We cannot take success for granted – we will have to work hard for it, we will have to constantly monitor and evaluate our performance, and we will have to react quickly to changing circumstances We must promote critical enquiry and the rational evaluation of evidence, even if turning that critical focus on some of our own actions and practices may cause some discomfort."

Vision 2015 identifies 'accountability' as a key characteristic which must underpin all our activities, improving what we do and how we do it. Provision of timely, accurate and relevant data to underpin performance assessment and decision making is critical in giving life to this value.

Data Reporting Requirements

Authors of papers for Planning and Resources Committee (or its sub-committees) and Council (or its standing committees) must consider what meaningful comparative data can be included to inform an understanding of La Trobe's relative performance on the topic being considered. This will normally include:

- 1) **La Trobe's performance on the measure over time:** with a default time series of five years where comparable data for that timeframe is available
- 2) **La Trobe's comparative performance against the Australian higher education sector:** which should, at a minimum, compare La Trobe with:
 - a. Innovative Research Universities (IRU) Group average
 - b. State sector (Victoria) average or median (as appropriate)
 - c. National sector average or median (as appropriate)
 - d. La Trobe-defined 'Group of Four' (La Trobe University, Griffith University, Macquarie University and University of Wollongong)
- 3) **La Trobe's comparative performance against non-university comparators:** where it is relevant and possible to do so, comparing the University's performance against non-university organisations is valuable and may be more relevant than confining comparisons only to universities or educational institutions.

It will sometimes be appropriate to show La Trobe's performance against each member of a sector grouping, rather than simply averages. This can be particularly the case when reporting performance against State universities where University of Melbourne and Monash University often significantly outperform others. Medians, as opposed to averages, can also provide a more meaningful comparator where there are significant outliers in the data set.

Other relevant sector groupings that it may be appropriate to compare La Trobe with include the Group of Eight, the Australian Technology Network and the Regional Universities Network (see table below).

Depending on the measure being reported, aggregate data may not be particularly helpful and comparisons at discipline level may be more appropriate.

La Trobe-defined 'Group of Four'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Griffith University • La Trobe University • Macquarie University • University of Wollongong
Innovative Research Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles Darwin University • Flinders University • Griffith University • James Cook University • La Trobe University • Murdoch University • The University of Newcastle
Australian Technology Network of Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curtin University of Technology • University of South Australia • RMIT University • University of Technology Sydney • Queensland University of Technology
Group of Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian National University • Monash University • University of Adelaide • University of New South Wales • University of Melbourne • University of Queensland • University of Sydney • University of Western Australia
Regional Universities Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Queensland University • Southern Cross University • University of Ballarat • University of New England • University of Southern Queensland • University of the Sunshine Coast
Victorian Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Catholic University • Deakin University • La Trobe University • RMIT University • Swinburne University of Technology • University of Ballarat • University of Melbourne • Victoria University

Further Information

Queries about this protocol should be directed to pipu@latrobe.edu.au