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Building Capacity for Quality Teaching in Australian Schools – Queensland Replication Study

School Principal Information Statement (2022 cohort)

Dear Principal,

Your school is invited to participate in the research project identified above, which is being led by Professor Jenny Gore from The Teachers and Teaching Research Centre at the University of Newcastle. This research also forms part of Robyn Press' PhD thesis, supervised by Professor Jenny Gore.

This project is funded by The Paul Ramsay Foundation, and has been approved by the Queensland Department of Education.

Data collection and analysis for this research will be coordinated by the University of Queensland. Data collection will be undertaken by Melindy Bellotti, Elizabeth Kennedy and Alexandra Gramotnev from the Institute for Social Science Research at the University of Queensland.

Why is the research being done?

Quality Teaching Rounds (QTR) is an approach to teacher professional development that involves teachers working in groups of four or more (known as Professional Learning Communities or PLCs) to observe and analyse each other's teaching using the Quality Teaching model. Quality Teaching Rounds has proved successful throughout New South Wales, where it has been found to improve teaching quality, increase teacher morale, and improve student outcomes.

This research will replicate a previous study conducted in New South Wales to investigate whether participation in Quality Teaching Rounds leads to similar positive results within Queensland schools that have not previously participated in QTR.

Further information about Quality Teaching Rounds is available [here](#).

Who can participate in the research?

We are inviting 90 Queensland schools to take part in this research. In the event that we receive interest from more than the required number of schools, we will ask Queensland Department of Education to make the final decision on which schools should participate.

Four teachers within each participating school will be invited to participate - **at least two of whom must teach students in Years 5 or 6.**

If more than four teachers from your school volunteer to participate, the final decision will be made by you as school principal.

Teachers wishing to take part in the research must also not have previously participated in Quality Teaching Rounds. Students of participating teachers will also be invited to take part in this research.

What will participants be asked to do?

This research is a Randomised Controlled Trial, comprising 3 separate phases (Baseline data collection, Intervention, and Post-intervention data collection). Each stage is explained below:

Baseline Data Collection (Term 1, 2022)

During Baseline data collection, we will collect the following data from the four participating teachers, as well as students of any Year 5/6 teachers who have chosen to participate in the research.

Participant	Activity	Description	Duration
Teachers	Efficacy and wellbeing survey	Online survey asking teachers about their ability to perform different parts of their job, and about their morale and wellbeing.	10 mins
Students of participating Year 5/6 teachers	Self-efficacy and aspiration survey	Online survey asking students about which parts of school they enjoy and their educational and vocational plans for the future.	15 mins
	Progressive Achievement Tests	Standard student assessments in maths and reading	40 mins each

Intervention (Term 2, 2022)

During the intervention phase, the four participating teachers will be randomly allocated to one of the following two groups:

Group	Activity	Duration
1. Quality Teaching Rounds (QTR) group	Teachers assigned to the QTR group will participate in a set of Quality Teaching Rounds. (A QTR training workshop on how to conduct Quality Teaching Rounds will also be provided). A member of the research team will visit the school during one Round to conduct an implementation fidelity check.	QTR workshop = 2 days <i>(minimum of 2 teachers per school to attend)</i> Quality Teaching Rounds = 1 day per round x 4 rounds <i>(all four teachers per school to participate)</i>
2. Wait-list control group*	Teachers assigned to the wait list control group will continue with their usual in-school professional development.	N/A <i>*Teachers assigned to this group will have the opportunity to participate in QTR at the end of the study. A QTR training workshop will also be provided.</i>
Both groups	Teacher survey	10 mins

Post-intervention data collection (Term 3, 2022)

Participant	Activity	Description	Duration
Teachers	Efficacy and wellbeing survey	Online survey asking teachers about their ability to perform different parts of their job, and about their morale and wellbeing.	10 mins

Post-intervention data collection (Term 4, 2022)

During the post-intervention data collection stage, the four participating teachers and the students of participating Year 5/6 teachers will repeat the measures they completed at the start of the study.

Participant	Activity	Description	Duration
Teachers	Efficacy and wellbeing survey	Online survey asking teachers about their ability to perform different parts of their job, and about their morale and wellbeing.	10 mins
Students of participating Year 5/6 teachers	Self-efficacy and aspiration survey	Online survey asking students about which parts of school they enjoy and their educational and vocational plans for the future.	15 mins
	Progressive Achievement Tests	Standard student assessments in maths and reading	40 mins each

Supporting data collection

To assist us recruiting participants and collecting data for our research, we would ask that you or your school office provide assistance with the following administrative tasks:

Administrative task	Approx. Duration
Distribute recruitment materials to teachers via email	5 mins
Select four teachers (including at least two Year 5/6 teachers) to participate in the research from amongst those who volunteer. <i>(You may wish to select the four teachers based on their respective availability or select teachers who will most benefit from QTR in addressing their professional development goals).</i>	5 mins
Send an email to those teachers from your school who returned a consent form, advising them as to which 4 teachers you have selected to participate, and acknowledging any teachers who could not be accommodated on this occasion.	5 mins

Collect, scan and return the completed Principal and four Teacher consent forms to the research team	10 mins
Distribute the research information letter to Parents/Carers of students taught by participating Year 5/6 teachers	5 mins
Notify Parents/Carers about the research within your school newsletter or other internal communications (we will provide you with suggested newsletter wording)	10 mins

We would ask that you please assist with the following:

- Permit the four participating teachers to complete the teacher surveys during school time
- Ensure that Year 5/6 students taking part in the research have access to computers when completing the Progressive Achievement Tests and online survey
- Notify a member of our research team if any of the participating teachers leave your school prior to the end of the project.

School Reimbursement

All participating schools will be funded with \$7000 towards the cost of teacher release whilst participating teachers attend a QTR workshop and participate in Quality Teaching Rounds.

- Schools allocated to the intervention group will receive teacher release funding in 2022.
- Schools allocated to the control group will receive teacher release funding in 2023.

For schools that do not have access to online PAT testing, the research project will fund access for the duration of the study.

What choice do you have?

The participation of your school in this research is entirely your choice. Whether or not you consent for your staff and students to participate, your decision will not disadvantage you.

Teacher participation is also entirely voluntary, and teachers can choose whether or not they wish to participate, regardless of any decision by the school.

Student surveys and Progressive Achievement Tests are entirely optional. Students and their parents will be asked to co-sign a consent form if they are willing to take part in the research. Only those students who consent will be asked to complete the Progressive Achievement Tests and surveys. *Teachers will be asked to arrange alternative learning activities for those students who do not wish to participate.*

Student participants (or their parents) can also withdraw their consent at any time up to the point at which the student data is collated and aggregated. You and your staff can also discontinue participation in the research at any time.

What are the risks of participating?

There are no anticipated risks to you or your school, staff or students in participating in this research.

- **Teachers** – The Quality Teaching Rounds protocol is designed to ensure that teacher discussions following each round are positive and constructive, with an emphasis on the observed teaching, rather than the individual teacher. In the unlikely event that teachers find any components of the research to be upsetting, they can withdraw at any time. Teachers can also contact the Queensland Education Employee Assistance Program (Lifeworks) on 1800 604 640 or call Lifeline on 13 11 14.
- **Students** – The student Progressive Achievement Tests (PATs) consist of basic maths and literacy questions. These are not a test of the students, but of the efficacy of the different training mediums of Quality Teaching Rounds, compared to alternative forms of teacher Professional Development. The student survey will ask students about life at school. The survey does not contain any sensitive or upsetting questions. We therefore do not anticipate any risks to the students in participating in this research. However, in the unlikely event that students find the research to be upsetting they can withdraw at any time or can call Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800.

What are the benefits of participating?

The anticipated benefits for participating teachers are considerable. Quality Teaching Rounds has been found to increase teaching quality and improve teacher confidence. Teachers have also reported being refreshed and re-energised through their participation in QTR.

We cannot guarantee any direct benefits to students who participate in this research, however, our previous research found that students of teachers who participated in Quality Teaching Rounds saw an increase in learning growth by as much as 25%.

The data we collect will also help us to improve teaching for all students, now and into the future.

How will participant privacy be protected?

- Teacher data

Teachers who take part in the research will be asked to provide their name at the top of our online teacher surveys so that we can match their survey responses over time. However, all survey responses are completely confidential, and no teacher will be named or identified within our research outcomes.

- Student data

Prior to conducting the research each student will be allocated a unique project ID, which will be recorded against their Progressive Achievement Tests and surveys. Students will not be asked to provide their names or any information that could identify them. Once students have completed the surveys and assessments, we will compare each child's survey responses and assessment results to see how they have progressed over the course of the year, and whether their opinions about school may have changed.

How will the collected data be securely stored?

Online teacher and student surveys will be administered through Qualtrics, and protected in accordance with their security and privacy policies available via the following links:

Qualtrics Security Statement - <https://www.qualtrics.com/security-statement/>

Qualtrics Privacy Policy - <https://www.qualtrics.com/privacy-statement/>

Student Progressive Achievement Tests will be administered via the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)'s online testing portal. The resulting data will be managed in accordance with their privacy policy, available at <https://www.acer.org/privacy>

All data obtained by the University of Newcastle research team will be retained securely for a minimum period of 5 years from completion of the research and managed/stored in accordance with the University's Research Data and Materials Management Guideline (<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=72>) or any successor Guideline, and applicable University of Newcastle policy provisions (as amended from time to time). Once the data is no longer required, it will be securely deleted from any online server.

How will the information collected be used?

Collected data will be used for research publications and presentations. The data will contribute towards Robyn Press' PhD and may also be used in future research projects. A summary of the research outcomes will also be provided to the research sponsors.

Individual participants will not be named within any reports arising from the project without their express consent.

- Student Progressive Achievement Test results will be available to you directly (via the ACER testing site) and can be accessed using your assigned school log-in, to allow you to generate a report of each participating student's PAT results for your school's own internal diagnostic student assessment purposes.
- Student survey responses will not be made available to participating schools directly, but overall aggregated survey responses across all participating schools will be detailed within our research summary.

The contact details of participating teachers may be used by the research team to invite them to participate in future research, subject to their consent. Non-identifiable data may also be shared with other parties to encourage scientific scrutiny, and to contribute to further research and public knowledge, or as required by law. A summary of the results of the research can be requested by emailing the project team at qtr-qld@newcastle.edu.au.

What do you need to do to participate?

Please read this Information Statement and be sure you understand its contents before you consent to participate. If there is anything you do not understand, or you have questions, please contact the research team.

If you would like your school to participate in this research, please email your completed School Principal consent form (along with four teacher consent forms) to qtr-qld@newcastle.edu.au

Further information

If you would like to ask any questions about the project, please do whichever of the following suits you best:

- Visit our website www.newcastle.edu.au/QTR
- Email the project manager at qtr-qld@newcastle.edu.au
- Call us on (02) 49215103

Thank you for considering this invitation.



Laureate Professor Jenny Gore
Chief Investigator

Co-Investigators

Dr Azhar Potia
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Dr Jenny Povey
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Alexandra Gramotnev
Stephanie Cook

Dr Drew Miller
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Dr Sally Patfield
Dr Tim Kelso
Melindy Bellotti
Sophie Austerberry

Robyn Press
Skye Gibson
Tim Dean
Elizabeth Kennedy
Dr Stefanie Plage

Complaints about this research

This project has been approved by the University's Human Research Ethics Committee, Approval No. H-2020-0296
Should you have concerns about your rights as a participant in this research, or you have a complaint about the manner in which the research is conducted, it may be given to the researcher, or, if an independent person is preferred, to the Human Research Ethics Officer, Research & Innovation Services, The University of Newcastle, University Drive, Callaghan NSW 2308, Australia, telephone (02) 4921 6333, email Human-Ethics@newcastle.edu.au.

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School Principal Consent Form

I consent to my school participating in the above research.

I understand that the project will be conducted as described in the Information Statement, a copy of which I have retained.

I understand that my school's participation in this research is voluntary, and that I can withdraw organisational consent at any time.

I understand the participation of my staff is also voluntary, that they can withdraw from the project at any time, and do not have to give any reason for withdrawing.

I also consent to:

- Permit teachers and students from my school who wish to do so, to participate in the research during school time.
- Provide access to computers for students to complete online surveys and assessments.
- Disseminate (via the school office) Parent/Carer Information Statements and Consent Forms to the parents of students taught by participating Year 5/6 teachers from within my school.

I understand that the personal information of participating teachers and students will only be accessed by the research team, except as required by law

I have had the opportunity to have any questions answered to my satisfaction.

Name	
School	
Signature	
E-mail	
Tel	
Date	

In addition to granting Organisational Consent, if you yourself would like to participate in Quality Teaching Rounds as one of the four nominated teachers from your school, then please confirm this on your consent form.