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

### **Teacher Information Statement (2022 cohort)**

Dear Teacher,

You are 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. You are receiving this invitation because your school principal has given consent for us to invite teachers and students from your school to participate in our research.

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 in maths and reading.

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 four teachers from your school to take part in this research, 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 your school principal.*

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

## Collection and return of Parent/Student Consent Forms

Prior to commencing the research, we will ask your school office to distribute a Parent/Student Information Letter and Consent Form to parents of any students taught by participating Year 5/6 teachers. If you are a Year 5/6 teacher who elects to participate in this research, you will be asked to collect and return completed Parent/Student consent forms from your class to the research team (via email) at [qtr-qlid@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:qtr-qlid@newcastle.edu.au)

### ***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 within the tables 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 your job, and about your 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.  <i>(A QTR training workshop on how to conduct Quality Teaching Rounds will also be provided).</i>  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 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 your job, and about your 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

*We would ask you to please provide alternative learning activities for non-participating students whilst the other students are completing the above activities.*

### ***What choice do you have?***

Your participation in this research is entirely your choice. Whether or not you consent to participate, your decision will not disadvantage you. If you do decide to participate, you can discontinue your participation at any time.

Student surveys and Progressive Achievement Tests are also entirely optional. Students who would like to participate in the research will be asked to co-sign a consent form with a parent if they are willing to participate. Only those students who consent will be asked to complete the Progressive Achievement Tests and surveys. 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.

### ***What are the risks of participating?***

There are no anticipated risks to you or your 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 you find any components of the research to be upsetting, you can withdraw at any time. You 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 a test of the impact of Quality Teaching Rounds on student outcomes, as compared to your school's usual form 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%.

### ***How will your privacy be protected?***

- Teacher data

If you agree to take part in the research, you will be asked to provide your name at the top of the online teacher surveys so that we can match your 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 participating student will be allocated a unique numerical project ID, which the project team will generate based on your school's allocated number (1-90), teacher number (1- 4 per school) and the order in which each student appears within the class register. Student ID numbers will remain confidential and will not appear within any reporting of the research outcomes.

Each student's project ID 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.

Any information collected by the researchers which might identify teachers or students, will be stored securely and only accessed by the researchers unless you consent otherwise, except as required by law.

### ***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>

- Student Progressive Achievement Test results for each participating student will be made 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 student 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.

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 shared with your school to facilitate internal diagnostic student assessment.

Your contact details may be used by the research team to inform you about future research opportunities, subject to your 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. You can request a summary of the results of the research by emailing the project team at [qtr-qld@newcastle.edu.au](mailto: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 to participate in this research, please complete and return the attached Teacher Consent Form to your school office.**

### **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](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/QTR)
- Email the project team at [qtr-qlid@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:qtr-qlid@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  
Associate Professor Wojtek Tomaszewski  
Dr Jenny Povey  
Dr Sally Staton  
Alexandra Gramotnev  
Stephanie Cook

Dr Drew Miller  
Associate Professor Jess Harris  
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](mailto:Human-Ethics@newcastle.edu.au).

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**Teacher Consent Form**

I consent to participate 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 participation in this research is voluntary, and that I can withdraw my consent at any time.

I understand that my personal information 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	
Year level taught in 2022	
Signature	
E-mail	
Tel	
Date	
Have you previously participated in Quality Teaching Rounds?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes or <input type="checkbox"/> No
Would you like to be contacted regarding future research opportunities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes or <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Please return your completed consent form to your school office**