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

### Information for Parents and Carers

Dear Parent/Carer,

My name is Jenny Gore. I am a Professor in Education at the University of Newcastle. Your child's school is participating in a research project I am leading. It's called 'Building Capacity for Quality Teaching in Australian Schools'. The study focuses on teachers and teaching. Your child's teacher has agreed to take part in the research, and so, with your permission, we would also like to invite your child to join the study.

The Department of Education is our partner in this important study. The research is funded by the Paul Ramsay Foundation. This letter gives you more information about the project. It will help you to decide if you want your child to take part. If you would like to know more about the study, please get in touch.

#### ***Why is the research being done?***

We have created a type of professional development for teachers called 'Quality Teaching Rounds' (QTR). Quality Teaching Rounds has proved successful in 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 investigate whether participation in Quality Teaching Rounds leads to similar positive results within schools that have not previously participated in QTR. Further information about Quality Teaching Rounds is available <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/centre/teachers-and-teaching/quality-teaching-rounds>.

#### ***Who can participate and what will they do?***

We would like to invite all children in your child's class to participate in this research. Students will be asked to participate by completing surveys and assessments that can be linked with the teaching they experience.

- The student surveys will ask your child questions about how much they enjoy school, how they feel about the work they do at school, and what they would like to do when they grow up.
- The student assessments cover reading and maths skills. These assessments are used in thousands of schools in Australia to measure student growth and identify any areas where students need further support. Your child's teacher will be provided with the results so that they can monitor your child's progress.

The surveys and assessments will be conducted on two occasions – once in Term 1, 2022, and then again in Term 4, 2022.

### ***How will my child's privacy be protected?***

We will not collect any identifiable data for our research. All students will be assigned a project ID, and any identifiable information they provide (such as their name) will be removed before we access the data.

We will not be able to match the data we collect against any of the participating students, and no students will be named or identified in anything we publish about this research.

### ***How will the collected data be used?***

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.

Once we have finished analysing the data, our research team will write reports, academic papers and theses based on our findings. We may also use the de-identified data to conduct other research in the future.

When the research is complete, you can obtain a summary of our findings from your school office. The school will let you know when it's available. Alternatively, you can contact your school directly to request a copy of the report once it becomes available.

### ***How will the collected data be securely stored?***

Online 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 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 of Newcastle's Research Data and Materials Management Guideline

(see <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.

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

There are no foreseeable risks to your child in taking part in our research.

- 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 when 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.

In the unlikely event that students find either the survey or assessments to be upsetting, they can stop at any time, or can call Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800.

We cannot guarantee any direct benefits to students who participate in the research; however, Quality Teaching Rounds has been shown to increase student learning growth in maths by as much as 25%.

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

### ***What choice do you and your child have?***

Your child's participation in this research is entirely your choice, and that of your child. Whether or not your child agrees to participate, their decision will not disadvantage them in any way. If you and your child agree to participate, then either of you can withdraw your consent at any time without providing a reason.

You can also request to withdraw your child's assessment and survey results from the research at any point up until their data has been collated and aggregated.

Please discuss the research with your child to ensure that they understand what this research involves, and that they have the choice as to whether or not they participate.

If you (and your child) are happy for us to collect these data, then please complete the attached consent form and return it to your child's school. Your child will also need to co-sign the consent form if they would like to participate.

### ***Would you like more information?***

If you would like to ask 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 a member of my team at [gtr-qld@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:gtr-qld@newcastle.edu.au)
- Call the research hotline 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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**Parent and Student Consent Form**

- I consent for my child to participate in the 'Building Capacity for Quality Teaching in Australian Schools' project.
- I understand that the research will involve the following activities:
  - Two online surveys
  - Two Progressive Achievement Tests in Maths
  - Two Progressive Achievement Tests in Reading
- I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time up until the collected data has been collated and aggregated.
- I understand that my child's data will be confidential, and that they will not be named or identified in any way in the research outcomes.
- I confirm that I have discussed the research with my child.

My child's name is:	
My child's teacher is:	
Parent/Carer name:	
Parent/Carer signature:	
Child's signature:	

**Please return your completed consent form to your child's teacher**