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## **Building Capacity for Quality Teaching in Australian Schools Digital Delivery of Quality Teaching Rounds**

Parent and Carer Information Statement  
Version 1 dated 20/5/2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

My name is Jenny Gore, and I am a researcher in Education at the University of Newcastle. Your child's school is one of 72 schools participating in a research project I am leading. It's called 'Building Capacity for Quality Teaching in Australian Schools'. The study focuses on delivering professional development to teachers, particularly small schools and those in rural and remote settings, to improve their 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 NSW Department of Education is our partner in this important study, which 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). Our prior research on Quality Teaching Rounds has shown positive effects on the quality of teaching and teacher morale. Quality Teaching Rounds generally involve groups of teachers working together within their schools, which is not always possible for small schools or those in rural and remote settings. In this study we want to see whether the impact of the 'Digital' delivery of Quality Teaching Rounds is just as beneficial for students and teachers as the traditional approach.

### **What are Quality Teaching Rounds?**

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) to observe and analyse each other's teaching using a framework we call the Quality Teaching model.

### **Who can participate, and what will they be asked to do?**

We would like to invite all children in your child's class to participate in this research by asking them to take part in three different data-collection measures. Each of these measures will be conducted on three occasions during the year (Term 1, Term 2, and Term 4).

If you agree for your child to participate, they will:

- Complete Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) in maths, reading and science. These assessments are used in thousands of schools in Australia to measure student growth and identify any areas where students need further support or extension. (Terms 1 and 4)
- Complete a survey about how they think about school, and their aspirations for the future. (Terms 1 and 4)

- Participate in three video-recorded lessons which will focus on the teaching they receive. Students will naturally be observed during these lessons but the focus of the recording is the teaching. (Terms 1, 2 and 4)

A diagram of the research project is provided below:

<b>Term 1, 2020</b>	Participating students will:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be video recorded whilst being taught for one lesson</li> <li>• Complete Progressive Achievement Tests (PATs) in Maths, Reading and Science</li> <li>• Complete an efficacy and aspirations survey</li> </ul>
<b>Term 2, 2020</b>	Participating students will:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be video recorded whilst being taught for one lesson</li> </ul>
<b>Term 4, 2020</b>	Participating students will:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be video recorded whilst being taught for one additional lesson</li> <li>• Repeat the Progressive Achievement Tests (PATs) in Maths, Reading and Science</li> <li>• Repeat the efficacy and aspirations survey</li> </ul>

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

Our research team will write reports, academic papers and theses on the information we collect. No names of schools, children or teachers will ever appear in anything we publish about this research. Pseudonyms will be used in all our reports and publications. You can get a copy of the report from the school office. The school will let you know when it's available.

#### What choice do I have?

It is entirely up to you as to whether or not your child participates in our research. Even if you do consent for your child to participate, you can withdraw your consent at any time without providing a reason. You can also withdraw any data that your child provides within 90 days of the date we collect it. Whether or not you agree for your child to participate, it will not affect your relationship with the school in any way. We encourage you to discuss the research with your child before you make your decision. Depending on the age and maturity of your child, you may wish to allow them to decide for themselves whether they are happy to participate.

Should you choose not to allow your child to participate in the video-recordings, they will still be able to fully participate in the lessons but will be positioned outside of the camera frame. Any incidental images of children who have not agreed to appear on camera will be obscured.

Sometimes, your child's school may ask your child to complete the survey and tests in any event – not for research purposes, but for internal teaching or assessment. Regardless of whether or not your child completes these activities in any event as part of their usual school work. We will only collect your child's data if you give us your consent to do so.

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

There are no foreseeable risks to your child in taking part in our research. The assessments in science, reading and maths are commonly used across many schools. Similarly, the student survey does not ask any questions that we would consider to be upsetting in any way. In the unlikely event that students find the survey or assessments to be upsetting, they can stop at any time, or can call Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800.

There are no direct benefits to students who participate in the research, but the data we collect will help us to improve teaching for all students, now and into the future.

**What do I need to do to provide my consent?**

If you are happy for your child to participate in our research, then please fill out the attached parent consent form and email it to our project officer (Mikahlia Holmes) at [Mikahlia.Holmes@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Mikahlia.Holmes@newcastle.edu.au)

**Would you like more information?**

If you would like to ask questions about the project, please either:

- Email [Mikahlia.Holmes@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Mikahlia.Holmes@newcastle.edu.au)
- Call (02) 4921 7429

Thank you for considering this invitation.



Laureate Professor Jenny Gore  
Chief Investigator

**Co-Investigators**

Dr Jess Harris  
Dr Drew Miller  
Dr Elena Prieto-Rodriguez  
Dr Leanne Fray  
Dr Sally Patfield  
Mikahlia Holmes  
Caitlin Field (PhD student)

***Complaints about this research***

This project has been approved by the University's Human Research Ethics Committee, Approval No. H-  
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 Services, NIER Precinct, 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 Carer Consent Form  
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- I consent for my child to participate in the above project
- I understand that my child will be involved in the following research activities:
  - An 'efficacy and aspirations' survey, about my child's opinion of school, and their aspirations for the future (Terms 1 and 4).
  - Progressive Achievement Tests in maths, reading and science (Terms 1 and 4).
  - A total of three video-recorded lessons focusing on the teaching provided to my child (Terms 1, 2 and 4).
- I have discussed the research with my child.
- I understand that I can withdraw my child from this research at any time, and that my decision will not disadvantage my child in any way.

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

**Please return your completed consent form to your classroom teacher**