

Please read this document carefully. It explains some research happening at your school.
If you do not respond then your child will automatically take part in the research.

Laureate Professor Jenny Gore
School of Education
Room HA89, Hunter Building
Callaghan Campus
(02) 4921 6709
jenny.gore@newcastle.edu.au



10 March 2020

Building Capacity for Quality Teaching in Australian Schools

Information for Parents and Carers - Cohort 2
(version 1 dated 31.5.2019)

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 NSW Department of Education is our partner in this important study and it is funded by the Australian Research Council and 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. In this study we want to see whether Quality Teaching Rounds have a beneficial impact on teaching and student achievement over a sustained period. To do this, we have created a Randomised Controlled Trial to compare how different types of teacher professional development affect student outcomes.

A video which explains the research design is available [here](#)
(Alternatively, please type bit.ly/2mfmWjB into your web browser)

You are encouraged to watch.

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.

Further information about Quality Teaching Rounds is available by clicking [here](#).
(Alternatively please type bit.ly/2JYQa1C into your web browser)

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 by completing surveys and assessments that can be linked with the teaching they experience. Your child will be asked to

complete a survey including 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.

Your child will also complete assessments in reading, science and maths. These assessments are used in thousands of schools in Australia to measure student growth and identify any areas where students need further support. In order to measure student growth throughout the project, we will use these assessments at the beginning and end of the school year. We would also like to collect your child's NAPLAN data and information on their school attendance. The data we collect will not include your child's name. We won't directly match your child's name to any of the information given to us by the school. Any data linkage that takes place will be de-identified to maintain confidentiality.

When will my child be participating?

The survey and assessments are scheduled to occur on two occasions - once in Term 1, 2020 and then again in Term 4, 2020.

Our research team will write reports, academic papers and theses on the information. No child or teacher names will ever appear in anything we publish about this research. You can get a copy of the report from the 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 strictly confidential. The online survey will be hosted by SurveyMonkey, and protected in accordance with their security and privacy policies available via the following links:

Survey Monkey Security Statement - <https://bit.ly/2E2dbw0>

Survey Monkey Privacy Policy - <https://bit.ly/2L5s5lj>

All data stored by the university, including Progressive Achievement Tests, NAPLAN results and school attendance data, will be retained for a minimum of 5 years on a password-protected computer within the Chief Investigator's office, or on The University of Newcastle's secure cloud server (ownCloud). The collected data will only be accessed by the research team, except as required by law. Once no longer required, data will be securely destroyed in line with UON policy provisions for research.

What choice do you have and how do you participate?

The assessments will be used by your child's teacher to help monitor students' progress. However, as their parent/carer, you can choose whether or not we are allowed to use the following data for our research:

- Student surveys
- Progressive Achievement Test results
- NAPLAN results
- School attendance data

If you are not happy for us to collect these data, then please fill out the attached withdrawal form and return it to your child's school. You can also telephone your school to withdraw your child from the study.

If you do not contact your school within 2 weeks of the date of the letter shown at the top of the page, we will assume that you are happy for your child to participate, and consent to us collecting the data identified above. However, please note that you can still withdraw your child from the study at any time by contacting your school, even after the withdrawal deadline.

What are the risks and benefits of participating?

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

However, 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.

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
- Email a member of my team at QTR@newcastle.edu.au
- Call the research hotline on (02) 49854300

Thank you for considering this invitation.



Laureate Professor Jenny Gore
Chief Investigator

Co-Investigators

Dr Drew Miller
Professor Max Smith
Dr Jess Harris

Professor David Lubans
Dr Elena Prieto-Rodriguez

Complaints about this research

This project has been approved by the University's Human Research Ethics Committee, Approval No. H-2018-0340. 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.

This form should only be completed if you do NOT want your child to participate

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Building Capacity for Quality Teaching in Australian Schools

Student Withdrawal Form

version 1 dated 31.5.2019

- I do **not** wish for my child to participate in the 'Building Capacity for Quality Teaching' project.
- I understand that by completing this form, my child will still need to complete the surveys and assessments, but the research team will not collect any of their following data:
 - Survey data
 - Progressive Achievement Test results
 - NAPLAN results
 - School attendance data
- I understand that my decision will not disadvantage my child in any way.

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