



## PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT

Melbourne Graduate School of Education/  
Melbourne School of Design

***Project: Innovative Learning Environments and Teacher Change: Phase 1, Stages (a) & (b).***

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Dear Principal/Teacher,

### **Introduction**

You are invited to participate in the above project, which is being conducted as part of a larger project led by a team of Education and Architecture researchers from the University's Melbourne School of Design and the Melbourne Graduate School of Education under the supervision of A/Prof Wesley Imms.

This team, operating as the Learning Environments Applied Research Network has a long history of effective research into learning environment design and use. The research we would like you to participate in is part of their latest project, the Australian Research Council's *Innovative Learning Environments and Teacher Change* (ILETC) linkage project (LP150100022). The ARC Linkage project is a four-year, three-phase study that will investigate broadly the potential of innovative learning environments (ILEs) to improve student learning. You are invited to visit the project's website for further information ([www.iletc.com.au](http://www.iletc.com.au))

### **Purpose of the current study**

The aim of this study focuses on Phase One of the larger project, which involves the collection of baseline data to enable the construction of the sampling frame. This component of the project research has been approved by the University of Melbourne's Human Research Ethics Committee and your own department's ethics committee.

### **What will I be asked to do?**

Should you agree to participate, you will be asked to contribute in the following way. You are invited to participate in a brief online survey and a potential follow-up telephone interview, at your convenience. As a selection of respondents may be invited to participate in a follow-up telephone interview to provide additional information to their short-survey responses, data will remain identifiable. The aim of this process is to identify a large number of schools across Australia and New Zealand which hold the potential to act as case studies in this four-year project. It is expected that data from this phase of the project will be used in subsequent phases of the broader ILETC project. However, schools, staff and students (if applicable) will be protected by pseudonym in public documentation of this project, except in cases where participants waive this right.

### **How long is my participation expected to take?**

We estimate that the time required to complete the survey is between 5 and 7 minutes. If invited, the follow-up telephone interview is expected to take you between 20 and 30 minutes. The total time required of you would not exceed sixty minutes.

**How will my confidentiality be protected?**

We intend to protect your anonymity and the confidentiality of your responses to the fullest possible extent, subject to any legal requirements. Your name and contact details will be kept in a password-protected computer file, separate from any data that you supply. The data will be kept securely in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education beyond the completion of the larger ILETC project for five years (including publication and public release), and will be destroyed after this time.

**Do I have to take part?**

Participation is completely voluntary. Should you wish to withdraw at any stage, or to withdraw any unprocessed data you have supplied, you are free to do so without prejudice.

**What happens after the project is finished?**

On completion of this initial stage of the research, your school may be invited to participate in a series of activities intended to investigate how teachers can make the best use of the flexible, technology-infused, collaborative learning environments that are becoming more common in Australian and New Zealand schools. If no further participation occurs, your school may also elect to remain in contact with this four-year project through regular updates, and invitations to various events.

Results from analysis of the data obtained through this initial stage of the project's research will be summarized into a report, protecting as much as possible the identities of particular schools, and made available on the project's website. It is possible that the results will be published and presented at academic conferences, and through publications aimed at improving teachers' practices.

**Where can I get further information?**

If you would like more information about the project, please contact the researchers; A/Prof Wesley Imms (+61 3 8344 8783) and Dr Marian Mahat (+61 3 9035 5630), or the Project Manager, Ms. Joann Cattlin, (+61 3 9035 8694). You may also wish to visit the project website ([www.iletc.com](http://www.iletc.com)).

**What if I have any concerns about the project?**

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, please contact Ms. Kate Murphy, Manager, Human Research Ethics - Office for Research Ethics and Integrity, the University of Melbourne VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or [HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au).

**How do I agree to participate?**

If you would like to participate in this project, please click on the survey link embedded in the attached email, indicate that you have read and understood this information by clicking the "I agree" button on the first page, and proceed to the short survey.