

Plain Language Statement

Melbourne Graduate School of Education

Project: Innovative Learning Environment and Teacher Change



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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. This Plain Language Statement will provide you with further information about the project, so that you can decide if you would like to take part in this research.

Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about. Please print or save a copy of the Plain Language Statement for your records.

What is this research about?

The research project is being conducted by a group of researchers led by Associate Professor Wesley Imms of the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at The University of Melbourne. This project has been approved by the University of Melbourne's Human Research Ethics Committee (Program reference: 1647284; Project reference: 1749099).

The research project forms part of the Innovative Learning Environments and Teacher Change (ILETC) project, to investigate the use of innovative learning environments (ILEs) in schools. It responds to a broad research question, Can altering teacher mind frames unlock the potential of innovative learning environments?

What will I be asked to do?

Should you agree to participate, you are invited to complete an online survey about innovative learning environments. The aim of the online survey is to get teachers' perspectives on their transition from traditional learning spaces into more innovative learning environments. Specifically, the survey will ask respondents about the types of spaces they use and how these impact their teaching. The online survey will take approximately 8 minutes.

What are the possible benefits?

Your contribution is vital to a greater understanding of how we can support Australian and New Zealand teachers to effectively use learning spaces in schools to affect student learning. The project intends to provide information and tools to help support teachers working in and transitioning into ILEs.

What are the possible risks?

This research contains no perceived risks for participants. It focuses on issues to do with school infrastructure, and generalized perceptions of its use.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is completely voluntary. You can freely choose to not participate and to withdraw from the project at any stage. Please note that as the data is anonymous, it will not be possible to omit any responses that have been submitted.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

Once the report arising from this project has been completed, you can request a brief summary of the findings from the investigators, or the Melbourne Graduate School of Education. As part of the larger ILETC project, the results will be published in academic journals, books and conferences, regional teacher workshops, a range of teacher resources and summary reports to be published on the ILETC project website (www.iletc.com.au).

What will happen to information about me?

We will protect your anonymity and the confidentiality of your responses to the fullest possible extent. The final report will mostly contain aggregated data, but if text-based comments are reported, you will be referred to by a pseudonym. We will remove any references to personal information or context that might allow someone to guess your identity.

Data will be collected, used and stored in accordance with both New Zealand and Australian privacy laws. The data will be kept securely at the University of Melbourne and Qualtrics data centre in Australia (encrypted, password protected and only accessible to named researchers) for five years from the completion of the larger ILETC project (including publication and public release) and will be destroyed after this time.

Who is funding this project?

This short online survey is part of a major research study of learning spaces in Australian and New Zealand schools, funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Project and 17 national and international partners, including departments of education in ACT, NSW, QLD, Diocese of Parramatta and New Zealand. Partners of the project may use aggregated data to publish results from the survey.

Where can I get further information?

Should you require further information, or have any concerns about the project, please do not hesitate to contact Associate Professor Wesley Imms and/or any of the researchers at the contact details listed below. If you have any queries about the ILETC project, please contact its Project Manager, Joann Cattlin, (telephone number: +613 9035 8694, joann.cattlin@unimelb.edu.au)

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Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or Email: HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.