

LETTER OF INFORMATION TO PARENTS/CAREGIVER

Dear Parent/Caregiver

Your child is invited to participate in a research project conducted by staff of the University of Wollongong on behalf of the Department of Education and Training. The project is entitled *Research study into the impact of professional learning for teachers through information and communication technologies (ICTs) online modules*. We write to seek your approval and assistance to involve your child as a participant in this research.

PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH

This study will investigate how teachers use computerised training to improve their teaching skills and if and how this training improves the way they teach in the classroom. It will also look at how this type of online teacher training impacts the experience of students.

INVESTIGATORS

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METHOD AND DEMANDS ON PARTICIPANTS

The students who chose to be involved will participate in a 30 minute group discussion with two other students about how technology is used in the classroom. This discussion will be audiotaped so that the researchers can listen and make notes later. No one else will hear the recordings. We would also like to copy some examples of the students' school work to show how they use technology. Typical questions include: Do you remember the activity you did that involved using computers to XXX? What did you have to do? What did you like about the activity? What did you learn from the activity? What other ways do you think technology could be used in this class? We would also like to collect a few photocopies of your child's work to show how they use technology.

POSSIBLE RISKS, INCONVENIENCES AND DISCOMFORTS

We can foresee no risks for your child, and no inconvenience apart from the 30 minutes of your child's time for the interview and collecting a few photocopies of their work. Your child's involvement in the study is voluntary and he/she may withdraw from the study at any time up to the submission of the study report, and withdraw any data that has been provided to that point.

FUNDING AND BENEFITS OF THE RESEARCH

This study is funded by a research grant from the Department of Education and Communities (DEC). This research will provide a basis for future decisions on the development of online training for teachers and the support required for its use. Findings from the study will be published in a report to the DEC and possibly published in educational journals. Confidentiality is assured, and your child will not be identified in any report on the research.

ETHICS REVIEW AND COMPLAINTS

This study has been reviewed by the XX Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of Wollongong, Reference 20XX/XXX. If you have any concerns or complaints regarding the way the research about the conduct of this research, you can contact the Ethics Officer on +61 2 4239 2191 or email uow-humanethics@uow.edu.au.

Thank you for your interest in this study.