

	<b>PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FOR QUT RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	
<b>– Parent/Carer Information Sheet –</b>		
<b>Improving outcomes through accessible assessment and inclusive practices</b>		
<b>QUT Ethics Approval Number 1900000852</b>		

**Research team**

Principal Researchers: **Professor Linda Graham & Associate Professor Jill Willis**  
Faculty of Education, Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

Associate Researchers: A/Prof Naomi Sweller, Macquarie University; A/Prof Sonia White & Dr Andrew Gibson, QUT; A/Prof Christopher DeLuca, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada; Ms Gaenor Dixon, Speech Pathology Australia

Postdoctoral Fellow: Ms Callula Killingly, QUT

QUT PhD Candidates: Ms Haley Tancredi & Ms Julie Arnold

**Dear Parent/Carer**

We are seeking consent from both you and your child to their participation in a study aimed at making classroom teaching and assessment tasks easier for students to understand.

From our previous research, we know that many students do not feel like they know what they need to do or effectively demonstrate their learning during assessment. This is particularly the case for students who experience language and/or attentional difficulties. In this project, we will work with teachers on inclusive teaching and assessment practices that will benefit *all* students.

The research is being led by researchers from QUT and draws on a tradition of research in inclusive education that places students at the centre of the research inquiry – as principal stakeholders and as experts of their own schooling experience. This research is being funded by the Australian Research Council's Linkage Program scheme (LP180100830).

Your child is invited to participate in this research project because their school is one of three Partner schools involved in this research. We would like to work with two student cohorts: those who will be in Year 10 in 2020 and those who will be in Year 10 in 2021.

**What does overall participation involve?**

The project consists of two parts.

**Part 1:**

Will gather information about students' school engagement, academic achievement, and language and attentional profiles.

**Part 2:**

Will use information gathered in Part 1 to identify two smaller groups of students. Group 1 will have students with possible language and attentional difficulties. Group 2 will have students who do not have language and attentional difficulties but are of the same age, gender and language background. Both groups will be involved in additional research activities.

This current invitation is related to Part 1 only. At the completion of Part 1, you will receive a letter indicating the likelihood of your child experiencing language and/or attentional difficulties, or not. This information is for you to share with your child at your own discretion and will not be disclosed to your child by members of the research team. Participation will then be invited for Part 2.

**What does Part 1 participation involve?**

If you both consent to your child participating in Part 1, we will invite you/your child to:

1. **Consent to us accessing Student Achievement and NAPLAN data:** if you and your child consent to being involved, we would like to access their Year 9 NAPLAN scores and Year 10 English Student Achievement scores. This will help us get a picture of patterns in achievement for the students in your child's year level, enabling us to judge whether the work we do with your schools' teachers' leads to improved student outcomes. Your child's school principal has agreed to provide these data for all students for whom we have parent consent.
2. **Completing questionnaires (students):** We are also interested in students' views on their engagement in learning. We will ask your child to complete the Student Engagement in School Scale (SESS) at school, at three time points throughout the project. Each time, this questionnaire will take them around 10 minutes to complete.
3. **Completing questionnaires (parent/carer):** We are asking parents/carers to provide us with some information about your child. If you are willing for your child to participate in this project, please complete the survey which contains a parent questionnaire, the Test of Integrated Language and Literacy Skills (TILLS) Student Language Scale checklist, and the Swanson, Nolan, and Pelham IV (SNAP IV) Questionnaire. This survey should take you around 15 minutes to complete, in total.

*If you and your child consent to their participation, we ask that you complete all three questionnaires and you both complete the consent form (via the online survey). If you decide that you do not wish your child to participate, we ask that you indicate "I do not give consent" (via the online survey).*

Consent to your child participating in this research project is entirely voluntary. If you do both agree to their participation, your child can withdraw from the research project at any time without comment or penalty. Although, once your child completes Grade 10, and once data has been anonymised and/or published, you/your child will no longer be able to withdraw consent. Your decision for your child to

participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your or their current or future relationship with your child's school, with QUT, or the Partner organisations.

### **What are the expected benefits?**

It is expected that this research project will benefit students both directly and indirectly.

**Direct benefits:** Students will have the opportunity to contribute to the re-design of the assessment task sheets that they and future students receive.

**Indirect benefits:** It is expected that this research will have outcomes with international significance that may improve inclusive learning and assessment practices for all students and may benefit teachers, school leaders and partner organisations. This evidence is critical to promote and support change in front-line teaching practice.

### **Are there any risks?**

It is not expected that students will experience any negative or adverse effect as a consequence of this study. For the most part they will only be involved in normal everyday class activities. However, there may be some minor time inconvenience to complete the questionnaires and thinking about some questions in the questionnaires cause you mild discomfort.

When student questionnaires are completed in class time, this will be scheduled in consultation with your child's teachers to ensure minimal disruption to your child's learning. This project has the full support of the Principal at your child's school.

### **What about privacy and confidentiality?**

Any information or personal details gathered in the course of the study are confidential. Only the research team will have access to the research data, which will be kept in a locked research compactus at all times. Research data will be retained indefinitely.

No individuals will be identified in the publication of the findings. A range of strategies will be used in reports, publications and other forms of presentation to ensure that the data you provide cannot be traced back to your child.

Any data collected as part of this research project will be stored securely as per QUT's Management of research data policy. Data will be stored for a minimum of 5 years and can be disclosed if it is to protect you or others from harm, if specifically required by law, or if a regulatory or monitoring body such as the ethics committee requests it.

The research project is funded by The Australian Research Council and six Linkage Partners (QCAA, QSPA, SPA, Benowa SHS, Kedron SHS and Macgregor SHS) and they will have access to deidentified, aggregate data that has been prepared by the research team, obtained during the project.

### **How do I give my consent for my child to participate in Part 1?**

We would like to ask you and your child to indicate whether you do or do not consent to participate in Part 1 via the online form. Please discuss the project with your child. If you both consent, please complete the questionnaires that follow.

We will ask your child to verbally consent before they participate in each research activity. Alternatively, please tick the 'I do not consent' box on the online form.

### **What if I have questions about the research project?**

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact us (details below).

### **What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?**

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on 07 3138 5123 or email [humanethics@qut.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@qut.edu.au).

Sincerely

#### **Professor Linda Graham**

07 3138 3738

[linda.graham@qut.edu.au](mailto:linda.graham@qut.edu.au)

Faculty of Education

Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

#### **Associate Professor Jill Willis**

07 3138 3798

[jill.willis@qut.edu.au](mailto:jill.willis@qut.edu.au)

Faculty of Education

Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

**Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information (provided as an email attachment).**

**Parent\_Carer\_Consent\_Part1\_ABC**

#### **Contacts**

Professor Linda Graham

[linda.graham@qut.edu.au](mailto:linda.graham@qut.edu.au)

3138 3738

Associate Professor Jill Willis

[jill.willis@qut.edu.au](mailto:jill.willis@qut.edu.au)

3138 3798

#### **Statement of student and parent/carer consent**

**By checking the box below, you are indicating that you:**

- Have read and understood the information document regarding this research project.
- Have had any questions answered to your satisfaction.
- Understand that if you have any additional questions you can contact the research team.
- Have discussed the project with your child and what is required of them if participating.
- Understand that you are free to withdraw without comment or penalty.
- Understand that your child can cease participation at any time (though if consent is withdrawn after your child completes Year 10, the anonymised data will continue to be analysed and used).
- Understand that if you have concerns about the ethical conduct of the research project you can contact the Research Ethics Advisory Team on 07 3138 5123 or email [humanethics@qut.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@qut.edu.au).
- Understand that the research project will include audio recording.