

PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT

Evaluation of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers

Dear Teacher/School Leader/Initial Teacher Educator/Pre-service Teacher,

We invite you to participate in a project evaluating the implementation of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (the Standards). The Standards were developed by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL), and are supported by the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA). The Standards provide a benchmark for the teaching profession, and aim to make teacher quality more consistent across Australia.

Who is conducting the research?

This research is being conducted by researchers in the Centre for Program Evaluation (CPE) and the Melbourne Education Research Institute (MERI), both in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne. The research will also be conducted in partnership with the Australian College of Educators (ACE).

What is the research about, and what is it for?

The research will look at questions about:

- stakeholder's knowledge and engagement with the Standards;
- whether the Standards reflect benchmarks for teacher practice;
- the support and resources available for stakeholders who are using the Standards;
- the changes that have occurred in schools, educational facilities and higher education institutions the Standards were introduced.

What will I need to do?

Should you agree to participate, you would be asked to complete an anonymous online survey. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. It will gather national information about the implementation of the Standards from teachers, school leaders, initial teacher educators, and pre-service teachers on their:

- knowledge and awareness of the Standards;
- attitudes towards the Standards;

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- use of the Standards; and the
- the perceived impact of the Standards in Australian schools, educational facilities and higher education institutions.

Your responses will not be shared with anyone from your school, educational facility or higher education institution or have any direct impact on your employment there.

How will my confidentiality be protected?

We intend to protect your anonymity and the confidentiality of your responses to the fullest possible extent, within the limits of the law. No identifying information such as your name, or place of employment, will be collected and only the Evaluation team at the University of Melbourne will have access to the data. All data from the surveys will be stored securely on a lock. When we write or speak about the research, we will use pseudonyms to refer to participants. All data will be destroyed five years after the conclusion of the project.

Do I have to take part?

Participation in this project is completely voluntary. If you agree to participate and then change your mind you are free to withdraw your consent at any time. All unprocessed data related to your responses will be excluded from the project. The Evaluation has been approved by the University of Melbourne Human Research Ethics Committee.

Once the Evaluation has been completed, a brief summary of the findings can be made available to you upon request.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like to know more about the project, or if you have any concerns during the course of the project, please email or telephone us using the details below.

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If, at any stage, you have concerns about the conduct of the project, please contact the Executive Officer, Human Research Ethics, The University of Melbourne on 03 8344 2073 or by fax to 03 9347 6739.

How do I agree to participate?

If you would like to participate, please indicate that you have read and understood the information provided by selecting 'Yes' to the question 'I consent to participate in the Evaluation of the Implementation of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (hereafter referred to as the APST) survey' on the first page of the survey.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janet Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Associate Professor Janet Clinton

Chief Investigator
Director, The Centre for Program Evaluation
Melbourne Graduate School of Education
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