

## **Mentoring experiences of Early Career Teachers in Western Australia**

### **Early Career Teacher Participant information sheet**

Thank you for your interest in taking part in this study. The research seeks to understand the mentoring experiences of Early Career Teachers (ECTs) in Western Australian schools and how this may influence their personal and professional growth. In this context, we refer to ECTs as newly appointed teachers in their first five years of service. I will be conducting the study in my capacity as a PhD student at The University of Notre Dame, Australia, Fremantle under the supervision of Professor Caroline Mansfield.

### **What is the project about?**

Attracting high quality teachers is critical to the survival of the teaching profession in Western Australia. The induction of ECTs and support provided in their initial posting are critical elements in retention. Recent reviews suggest that providing high-quality support for ECTs in the form of mentoring may reduce the impact of challenges in the early years of working in the profession. Given the varied definitions and approaches of mentoring that exist in education, and the challenges of accessibility, equity and quality, the aim of this study is to explore the mentoring experiences of ECTs in Western Australia.

### **How this research can help?**

It is anticipated that gathering data from the lived mentoring experiences of ECTs over time will inform schools and systems (locally, nationally and internationally) about the types and quality of mentoring experiences available to ECTs. This study will enable recommendations to be made about how best to support the mentoring experiences of ECTs in the future.

### **What does participation involve?**

You can participate in this research in one of two ways:

- By completing an anonymous online questionnaire regarding your mentoring experiences (approximately 10-15 minutes in duration)
- OR
- Completing the online questionnaire **and** participating in an interview of approximately 45 minutes duration at a time and date suitable to you. The interviews will be audio recorded.

### **What if I change my mind?**

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. Even if you agree to participate, you are free to withdraw from further participation at any time without giving a reason and with no negative consequences. You are also free to ask for any information which identifies you to be withdrawn from the study, however you cannot withdraw survey responses, as these are non-identifiable.

**Will anyone else know the results of the project?**

All data gathered in this study will be treated confidentially.

Once the recruitment and data gathering process is complete, the spreadsheet and copies of emails will be given to the Chief Supervisor, Professor Caroline Mansfield and will be permanently removed from my computer. All participants will be identified by an ID number which will be used in all file names, transcripts, analysis and writing of results.

All interviews will be audio recorded and transcribed for analysis. Audio and text file names will include the participant's research ID and any identifying information (specific to location or school) will be removed from interview transcripts. Only the Chief Supervisor, Professor Caroline Mansfield and I will have access to audio and text files.

The data collected will be stored securely in the School of Education at The University of Notre Dame Australia, Fremantle for at least five years after which time, any hard copy data will be destroyed by shredding and electronic information will be permanently deleted. The results of the study will be published as a journal article, thesis and or book chapter.

The study has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at The University of Notre Dame Australia (approval number 019059F). If you have a concern or complaint regarding the ethical conduct of this research project and would like to speak to an independent person, please contact the University's Research Ethics Officer at (+61 8) 9433 0943 or [research@nd.edu.au](mailto:research@nd.edu.au). Any complaint or concern will be treated in confidence and fully investigated. You will be informed of the outcome.

**Will I be able to find out the results of the project?**

Once we have analysed the information from this study, I will send an email to the participants providing a summary of the project and key findings.

If you are willing to consent to participation in this study, please go to the online questionnaire [here](#). If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact me by email at [nunziatina.bonfiglio@my.nd.edu.au](mailto:nunziatina.bonfiglio@my.nd.edu.au) or mobile on 0417 920 728. Alternatively, you may wish to contact my supervisor, Professor Caroline Mansfield at [caroline.mansfield1@nd.edu.au](mailto:caroline.mansfield1@nd.edu.au).

Thank you again for assistance with this research project.

Regards,

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