

## Participant Information Sheet

**Research Title: Teaching English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D) During COVID-19 School Closure: Teacher Perspectives**

**Researcher:** Dr Sue Creagh, School of Education, University of Queensland.

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. Please read the following information about the project so that you can decide whether you would like to take part in this research. Please feel free to ask any questions you might have about our involvement in the project.

If you decide to participate in this research, please keep in mind that your participation is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to stop at any time, and you would not need to give any explanation for your decision to stop participating. If you choose to stop participating, your data will not be used in the research.

This Participant information sheet is given to you to keep. You will also be given a consent form to sign and return. Your decision whether you take part, or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with the University of Queensland.

### **What is this research about?**

This project is a qualitative investigation of teachers' experiences providing learning for English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D) students during school closure because of the COVID 19 pandemic. With the rapid closure of schools, in order to reduce the threat of virus transmission, school systems and teachers were required to maintain educational services, albeit through a range of delivery modes. This unique situation provides an opportunity to understand how English language learning is both possible and challenging when academic learning is offered through online synchronous and asynchronous modes. Interviews with teachers of EAL/D students will document their experiences of on-line delivery of school learning, and their understandings of how EAL/D students engaged with that learning. Teacher insights will be of enormous benefit for all teachers and school systems particularly as there is the strong possibility of recurring and ongoing school closures, until the health situation is resolved.

### **What will I need to do?**

If you agree to participate, you will take part in an audio-recorded interview of approximately one hour, at a location that best suits you. This could be at a site you nominate (outside of your teaching hours) or if preferred, the interview can be done through a zoom meeting.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

There are no individual benefits to you personally from your participation in the research. However, teacher insights into those conditions, activities and practices which were most optimal for learning and were most challenging for learning for EAL/D school students will be of enormous benefit for all teachers particularly as there is ongoing consideration now that there may be the necessity to revert to on-line learning when school closure is necessary. This will be the case until this health issue is

resolved. This study will provide clear advice to schools and educators of both the challenges and best practices if on-line delivery of learning is to be successful for EAL/D students.

### **What are the possible risks and disadvantages of taking part?**

There are no risks associated with taking part in this research. Considerations which relate to inconvenience relate most specifically to the time commitment required to participate. To alleviate any inconvenience, I am very happy to work with you to find a time and location for the interview which is most suitable to you. I am also able to organise zoom meetings if preferred.

### **What will happen to the information about me?**

All information collected about you will remain confidential. Interview transcripts will be de-identified to protect your privacy. You will also be offered the opportunity to review the interview transcript and provide feedback on the content and preferred, if any, amendments.

All recordings of interviews and de-identified transcripts will be stored as master copies in the UQ Research Data Manager, ensuring the security and privacy of this material, which can only be accessed by myself, on password protected computers.

Potentially, the de-identified data collected in this project could contribute to national and international projects, for similar research purposes. In this case, I will maintain ownership and management of these data.

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forms. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified, except with your expressed permission.

### **What will happen if I decide to withdraw?**

Your participation in this research is voluntary and you are free to withdraw from the research anytime without needing to provide any explanation, and you will not be disadvantaged in any way if you withdraw. Should you decide to withdraw, all the information collected from/about you will be destroyed and will not be used in the research.

### **Can I hear about the results of this research?**

There are several ways in which the findings from this research project will be disseminated:

- 1) In the first instance, a key priority will be to present the findings to the QATESOL organisation, including those who were participants in the research. QATESOL provides many professional development opportunities for members and a presentation on this research would have high priority
- 2) Findings will be presented at education conferences
- 3) Findings will be published in at least two peer-reviewed journal articles.

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

This study adheres to the Guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. Whilst you are free to discuss your participation in this study with the researcher contactable on [screagh@uq.edu.au](mailto:screagh@uq.edu.au) or 3365 6478. if you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Coordinator on +61 7 3365 3924/ +61 7 3443 1656 or email [humanethics@research.uq.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@research.uq.edu.au)

This research Ethics ID number: 2020001605