

# Plain Language Statement PRINCIPALS

## Faculty of Education



Project Title: **Worldviews and Religions**

### **Research Team**

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## **Introduction**

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. Please take the time to read this information carefully.

We will ask you to consent for you and your school to participate in this project. Your school's participation in this project is voluntary. If you, your staff, or your students do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you, your staff, or your students begin participating, anyone can stop at any time.

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

Teachers face a significant challenge in a country that values diversity and inclusion while also upholding the separation of church and state. This challenge is rooted in the complex relationship between religious beliefs, practices, and personal identities. Educators must possess knowledge and awareness regarding religious coexistence, as it plays a crucial role in the overall welfare of students and the nation. Being well-informed about and showing respect for diverse beliefs and practices enhances the well-being of students and promotes a harmonious educational environment.

This project aims to better understand worldviews and religious education for those working with young people in schools on issues of values, citizenship, and national and personal identity. Accordingly, this project asks:

1. How do schools in Victoria, across different sectors, support students with diverse faith identities?
2. What specific factors influence the teaching of diverse worldviews and religions in Victorian schools?
3. How effective are the current approaches in promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding among students in Victoria's educational settings?

This project is funded by the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Education and the Faith Communities Council of Victoria Inc.

### **What will I be asked to do?**

Should you agree to participate, the research team will invite you to:

- Complete an online survey [duration approx. 20 minutes]

### **What will my staff be asked to do?**

- Teachers will be invited to complete an online survey [duration approx. 20 minutes].

### **What are the possible benefits?**

This research will establish a strong foundation of evidence and insights, enabling a more effective and coordinated approach to the intricate and diverse realms of worldviews and religious education. Additionally, it will generate a new knowledge base that will inform future discussions and decisions on the nature and significance of worldviews and religious education in 21st-century classrooms and teacher education.

### **What are the possible risks?**

There is a chance that participants may feel uncomfortable voicing opinions about worldviews and religion in the survey. If you or your staff feel uncomfortable during the survey, anyone can leave the online platforms anytime by closing the browser window.

### **Do we have to participate in the survey?**

No. Participation is completely voluntary. Anyone can withdraw from the survey anytime by closing the browser window. Your decision NOT to participate will be confidential.

### **What will happen to information about me, my school, and my staff?**

The researchers may write about the online survey findings, but you, your school, your staff, and will NOT be named.

Only the researchers will know the responses to the survey. They will treat your data confidentially.

All generated survey data will be de-identified as the default setting of the survey. This is to allow for the anonymity of survey respondents, and it means that none of the information can be linked to you or your school.

Publications resulting from this project may include quotes from survey data, but will not include personal information or identifying information. We intend to protect you, your school and your staff's anonymity and confidentiality.

### **Where can I get further information?**

If you would like more information about the project, please contact Professor Larissa McLean Davies [larissam@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:larissam@unimelb.edu.au)

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

This project has human research ethics approval from The University of Melbourne Ethics ID number **28075**. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Research Integrity Administrator, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 8344 1376 or Email: [research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au). All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence, please provide the name of the research team and/or the research project's name or ethics ID number.

Thank you for your interest in the project.



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