

# Plain Language Statement for **TEACHERS**

## Faculty of Education



Project Title: **Worldviews and Religions**

### **Research Team**

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DATE:

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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.

Your participation in this project is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. If you begin participating, you can also stop at any time.

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

Teachers face a significant challenge in a country that values diversity and inclusion while 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 respecting 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 values, citizenship, and national and personal identity issues. 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:

- 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 education's intricate and diverse realms of worldviews and religions. Additionally, it will generate a new knowledge base that will inform future discussions and decisions on the nature and significance of worldviews and religions in 21st-century classrooms and teacher education.

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

You may feel uncomfortable voicing opinions about worldviews and religion in the survey. If you feel uncomfortable during the survey, you can leave the online platforms anytime by closing the browser window.

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

No. Your participation is completely voluntary. You can withdraw from the survey at any time by closing your browser window.

Your decision NOT to participate will be confidential.

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

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

Only the researchers will know your answers in the survey. As the survey's default setting, all generated data will be de-identified. This allows survey respondents to remain anonymous, meaning no information can be linked to you or your school.

Publications resulting from this project may include quotes from the survey but will not contain any personal or identifying information. We intend to protect your anonymity and confidentiality fully.

### **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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